

**Iraq parliament debates oil plan**

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's parliament ended a debate on a new U.N. resolution on partial oil exports on Monday giving no explicit word on whether it would endorse or reject the offer. Parliamentary speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh said at a three-hour session attended by reporters that the deputies would meet on Tuesday morning to continue their discussion of the plan. It is unlikely parliament will accept the offer but the fact that discussion was extended until Tuesday was unexpected. Many speakers, including Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahafi, urged the parliament to reject the U.N. resolution, which would allow Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to buy humanitarian supplies. Most deputies who addressed the session denounced the plan, which President Saddam Hussein and his cabinet already have rejected as an infringement on Iraq's sovereignty. Under the resolution Iraq would be allowed to sell up to \$1 billion of oil. Two similar resolutions adopted in 1991 were rejected by Baghdad.

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# Symposium opens on realising Jordan Rift Valley development

## Jordan and Israel agree on joint authority

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A meeting seen key to advancing efforts to develop the Jordan Rift Valley got off to a good start Monday, with a large participation by high-level officials from Jordan, Israel and the U.S. as well as senior executives from dozens of American multinationals.

The three-day symposium is expected to bring closer proposals and views of the governments and private sectors of the three countries in terms of implementing several billion dollars worth of projects in the Jordan Rift Valley that Jordan and Israel share.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres attended the opening session of the symposium. (see separate story).

Representatives of 50 U.S. companies as well as large Jordanian and Israeli delegations of officials and businessmen are attending the event.

Details of the projects and related discussions are expected to emerge on Wednesday, the last day of the symposium, which is organised by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA). However, definite results of the discussion are unlikely to remain unknown until the projects are ready for implementation if only because of their competitive nature and private sector involvement in them.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the Royal Palace on Monday (photo by Yousef Allan)

(Continued on page 7)

### Peres optimistic of development bank

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is seen as a key component of efforts to reap the benefits of peace in the region after Jordan and Israel

key to consolidate the state of peace reached Oct. 26 between the two countries.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan referred to the proposal to set up such an authority in a speech at the opening of a three-day symposium and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said at a press conference shortly thereafter that his country accepted the idea.

Mr. Peres also said he was optimistic, despite differing approaches by some key partners, that the proposal for a Middle East development bank would be realised at the Middle East and North African economic summit scheduled to be held in Amman in October.

In his speech at the symposium, attended by Israeli, American and Jordanian officials and business executives (see separate story), the Crown Prince also called for a "deregulated Jordanian-Israeli international special economic zone" and said the master plan for the zone should be ready before the Amman summit.

The key points that the Crown Prince made included:

- Economic development must benefit the people. "All this development has to mean something to people," he said.

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday meets with Bahraini's Sheikh Salman Ben Isa Al Khalifa and (right) Oman's air force chief Mohammad Ben Mahfouz Al Ridi (Petra photos)

### King meets with Bahraini, Omani and Israeli officials and U.N. force chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received at the Royal Court in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sheikh Salman Ben Hamad Ben Isa Al Khalifa, deputy chairman of the board of trustees of the Bahraini Studies and Research Centre.

Sheikh Salman expressed his thanks and appreciation for the King over the hospitality he was accorded during his three-day visit to Jordan.

Sheikh Salman left Amman later in the day.

During his visit, he was received by Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Sharif Ben Shaker.

In a pre-departure statement, Sheikh Salman voiced satisfaction over the visit and the hospitality that was accorded to him and the delegation accompanying him.

He said he had conveyed to the King and the Crown Prince the greetings of the Emir of Bahrain Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa.

King Hussein was briefed by Mr. Peres on proposals presented to the seminar on means of developing the Jordan-Rift Valley.

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Rift Valley.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Israeli Ambassador in Amman Shimon Shamir.

King Hussein also received at the Royal Court the commander of the Omani Royal Air Force, Major-General Mohammad Ben Mahfouz Al Aridi. King Hussein and the Omani commander discussed cooperation and exchange of expertise between the Jordanian and the Omani air forces.

Gen. Aridi expressed appreciation and admiration of the high level of performance of the Jordanian Royal Air Force and the Kingdom's military institutions.

King Hussein also received at the Royal Court Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who is visiting Jordan to take part in a seminar on developing the Jordan-Rift Valley.

King Hussein was briefed by Mr. Peres on proposals presented to the seminar on means of developing the Jordan-

Rift Valley.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Israeli Ambassador in Amman Shimon Shamir.

King Hussein also received at the Royal Court Allen Kent and William Smith of the American War Veterans Society.

Mr. Kent and Mr. Smith voiced appreciation of King Hussein's efforts to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Kent, the president of the society, was also received by Sharif Zeid, who is also minister of defence.

Sharif Zeid reviewed with Mr. Kent prospects of cooperation between sectors represented by the Jordanian retired servicemen and the American society.

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King Hussein was briefed by Mr. Peres on proposals presented to the seminar on means of developing the Jordan-

Rift Valley.

Heitor Gurgulino de Souza, Dr. De Souza briefed the King on the university, its branches in several countries and its activities in scientific research fields.

King Hussein said Jordan welcomes the establishment of a branch of the university in Jordan (see page 3) and called for offering support and facilities for the establishment of such a branch.

King Hussein said Jordan also received Dr. De Souza and was briefed by him on the university's establishment and functions.

King Hussein also received the commander of the U.N. Protection Forces in Croatia, Major-General Eid Kamel Al Roudan. Gen. Roudan reassured the King on the conditions of the Jordanian peacekeeping forces serving in the former Yugoslav Republic they are carrying out.

The King wished these forces success in carrying out their humanitarian role.



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday meets with the head of the U.N. protection force in Croatia, Major General Eid Kamel Al Roudan (Petra photos)

### EU team arrives with invitation to Barcelona

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A five-member delegation representing the European Union (EU) was expected to arrive in Amman Monday evening to officially invite Jordan to take part in the Mediterranean conference which the EU will organise in November.

The EU plans to set up this zone over a period of 15 years.

French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet, whose country currently holds the rotating presidency of the EU, told the Jordan Times the delegation will also consult with Jordanian officials over the political declaration of the conference as well as the objective of the conference which will bring together the EU members with 12 Mediterranean countries.

Mr. Bajolet said the Barcelona conference, which will be held on Nov. 27-28 during the Spanish presidency of the EU, will discuss the basis of cooperation between the EU and non-member Mediterranean countries.

He said these basis include the principles of respect for democracy, human rights and pluralism and the adoption of dialogue as the means for settling conflicts.

He said the conference will also address the idea of establishing an organisation for security and cooperation in the Mediterranean in a way similar to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"He always had a strong story about the threat of the

conference will also discuss the partnership deals which the EU is offering to its Mediterranean neighbours in an effort to reach the best possible formulas for eventually creating a free trade zone which, with 800 million inhabitants, would be the largest in the world.

The EU plans to set up this zone over a period of 15 years.

Mr. Bajolet said the Barcelona conference will also be able to announce a 5.16 billion European currency units financial aid package to the Mediterranean countries. The EU members will discuss the package during their summit in Cannes in July.

The plan would grant aid to those countries on project basis and would have the European Investment Bank make a similar amount of loans to countries which qualify to benefit from the package.

The French diplomat said the package will require that projects to be financed through it be of a regional importance but would not require that these projects be implemented by more than one country.

Observers have said that the Barcelona conference will convene at a time when northern European states are pushing for more aid to former East European states while southern members of the EU want more emphasis on their Mediterranean

countries.

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## Ban on treating Israeli dental patients excludes 'humanitarian' cases

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The ban that the Jordanian Dentists Association issued against treating Israeli patients does not apply to "humanitarian and emergency" cases when doctors are ethically committed to offer help to those who need it regardless of any consideration and in compliance with medical principles. President of the Association Said Abu Meizer said Monday.

Dr. Abu Meizer told the Jordan Times the association's decision to forbid its members from treating Israeli patients applies only to what he termed "commercial cases" in which Israeli patients try to take advantage of the relatively cheap dental care charges in Jordan compared to Israel.

"In emergency and humanitarian cases, treatment is a right of all patients regardless of their nationality," Dr. Abu Meizer said, stressing that the association respects

the medical ethical and professional principles which oblige doctors to give treatment to any patient who needs it.

Israeli press reports said this week that hundreds of Israelis were seeking dental treatment in the Kingdom to benefit from the cheaper cost in Jordan.

Dr. Abu Meizer stressed that the decision came within the framework of the anti-normalisation campaign launched by the majority of Jordanian professional associations in light of continued "Israeli occupation of Arab lands in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon."

"Any treatment of (Israeli patients whose situation) is not urgent is part of the normalisation of ties (with Israel) which Jordanian associations reject," said Dr. Abu Meizer, who has been president of the 2,700-member group since May last year.

Most professional associations in the Kingdom are opposed to the normalisation of ties with the Jewish state before a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict is found.

## Eban: Peace process will prevail and win in the end

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Abba Eban, the Israeli statesman, scholar, and former top diplomat, believes the Middle East peace process, despite fluctuations, will not be abandoned and will "win its way to an end."

In a public lecture at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, April 19, Mr. Eban discussed "opportunities and obstacles" to the current Mideast peace process. He said "irreversible facts are being created" and speculated that a Palestinian state might well become a reality in the future, arguing that in history "self-government has always led to statehood."

The Cambridge-educated Eban served as Israel's foreign minister from 1966 until 1974, at a critical period in Israel's history, which witnessed both the 1967 war and the October 1973 war.

Moreover, as a prominent member of the Labour Party which governs Israel now, he was the chairman of the Defense and Foreign Relations Committee of Israel's parliament, the Knesset from 1984-1988.

Mr. Eban remarked at the beginning of his speech that the end of the Cold war has produced a "fundamental reappraisal of the diplomatic routine" and a new era in which "odd couples" often share the same microphone.

He noted the cases of deKlerk-Mandela, IRA/Britain, and last but not least, Arafat-Rabin. He added that civil discourse, conciliation and the victory of rationality

will not work.

## Denktash — fighter for equality

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, who won a third term as president on Saturday, has spent over three decades fighting for political equality for his community on the divided island of Cyprus.

"I take an oath that the Turkish-Cypriot community will never become a minority, nor will the island ever become Greek," he said in 1963, three years after inde-

pendence from Britain and two months before intercommunal fighting broke out.

He was stuck to his briefline.

"Turkey will never allow Cyprus to become a Greek island," he said after voting on Saturday.

Mr. Denktash's tough stance in United Nations-sponsored talks on reunifying the island, split since the Turkish invasion in 1974, has

founded.

Numerous U.N.-sponsored talks over reunifying the island in a federation have

failed.

In a statement issued on

Sunday, the prime minister, the committee's president, said the National Committee for Culture and Art aims at reviving national dialogue and enhancing cultural performance.

The formation of the committee, which comprises members from different social and political backgrounds, also aims at encouraging cultural and artistic creativity as well as improving their living conditions.

The committee is a combination of national, popular and official personalities who meet under one umbrella to draw up a cultural strategy or a vision to improve the situation of writers, and provide them with their basic needs, health insurance for example," he said.

Members of the committee are: Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, Senator Laila Sharaf, former Minister of Trade Hamdi Tabba, former Minister of Finance Sam Gammo, Deputy Mohammad Daoudi, Hind Nasser, publisher of Al Ra'i news-

paper Mabmond Kayed,

President of the Chamber of Industry Khalid Abu Has-

san, President of the Cham-

ber of Commerce Haidar Murad, columnist Tareq Masa'weh, Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture Mohammad Naji Anairi, General Director of the National Library Osama Mi-

qdadi, Ihsan Ramzi, Presi-

dent of Jordanian Press Asso-

ciation Suleiman Qudah, Presi-

dent of the Jordanian Writers

Association Ibrahim Albi,

head of the Jordanian Artists

Association Mohammad Bar-

mawi, Hazem Zou'bi, Presi-

dent of the Musicians Asso-

ciation Malek Madi, Presi-

dent of the Jordanian Librar-

ies Association Yousef Qan-

deel, Zubair Khouri, Hosni

Ayesh, Zaha Mango and wri-

ter Muna Shuaqra.

The committee also in-

cludes: Randa Sha'er, Suhi

Shoman, Suliman Hawari,

Yousef Ghawwanbeh, Sulie-

man Tarawneh, Farouq Abu

Jaber, Sameh Madanai, Husi-

ni Abu Ghaida, Abdullah

Malki, Abdul Majid Na'aseb,

Issam Saifi, Balqis Hikmat,

Abdullah Naqrash, Issam

Arish, Jamal Abu Hamdan,

Wasef Azar, Rasem Badran,

Abd al Momani, Ali

Talafeeq, Hatem Halewani,

Saleiman Nuseirat, Salab

Abu Hnoud, Ghaleb Hadidi,

Ahmad Rahim Tongan,

Fakhru Bilebi, Director of

the Royal Cultural Centre

Iyyad Qattan and Moham-

mad Younis Abbadi.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Monday chairs a meeting of the Economic Consultative Council (AFP photo)

## Government reaffirms commitment to tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Monday emphasised the government's deep interest in supporting and promoting the role of the tourism sector and giving the private sector a free hand to help promote tourism in Jordan.

Addressing a meeting of the Economic Consultative Council (ECC), the prime minister said the government would provide all facilities for and contribute towards building the "basic and appropriate infrastructure needed for the development of this important sector" within a national strategy which the government is sponsoring to serve until the year 2010.

The Kingdom enjoys a very important location on the tourist map, Sharif Zeid said that a country with such notable sites like the ancient city of Petra, the Dead Sea and a good weather should

have a strategy appropriate and catering to touristic services and to attract as many Arab and foreign visitors as possible, he said.

The meeting listened to Minister of Tourism Abdul Ilah Khathib reviewing the tourism sector and plans to promote it. The government was making plans to ensure that this sector would offer major contributions towards increasing national revenues. Mr. Khathib said.

Another topic reviewed by the council was the performance of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) and its development.

A statement following the meeting emphasised the role which the AFM plays in utilising local savings and in creating an opportunity for investments in the Kingdom.

The statement underlined the government's keenness on creating the means and the instruments and measures required for upgrading and boosting the AFM's operations in a manner that would best serve the national economy.

The government, acting in cooperation with the AFM's management, will seek to maximise the AFM's role and encourage investments through new legislation on investment companies and through modernising the AFM's law and organising trading in the companies shares, said the statement.

The council looked into means of highlighting the successful results of public Shareholding companies as a way to encourage further investments.

The council members include several ministers and representatives of the private sector in addition to prominent economists.

## New committee aims at upgrading culture, arts

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh said Monday the formation of a National Committee for Culture and Arts by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker aims at enhancing the cultural environment in all parts of the Kingdom and upgrading the status of Jordanian writers and intellectuals.

Mr. Eban said the European concept, and in particular the Benelux model, would work very well in the Middle East, particularly among Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians. He proposed one Dead Sea authority and a single authority for the two parts of Aqaba and Eilat.

He concluded by saying that the United States should sponsor such a community of states and should guarantee this mutuality of interests, predicting that "the ecumenical aspect of the Middle East will eventually triumph" and expressed hope that "separation" will not take root."

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# Home News



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday inaugurates a workshop for women municipal and rural council members (Petra photo)

## Princess Basma inaugurates workshop for women municipal council members

AMMAN (Petra) —

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday inaugurated a training workshop for women members of municipal and rural councils in the southern parts of Jordan organised by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment in cooperation with the National Committee on Women's Affairs.

Princess Basma delivered an address in which she focused on the role of women in developing the local society with men.

Participants in the seminar, who number 20, are receiving lectures on the municipalities laws, preparing municipal councils' budgets, accounting, elections and the duties of the councils during the two-day seminar.

Also Monday, Princess Basma attended the graduation ceremony of participants in a "Friends of the Police" course.

The princess distributed diplomas to the graduates.



Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud and U.N. Under-Secretary General and Rector of the United Nations University (UNU) Heitor Gurgulino de Souza Monday sign an agreement to establish the UNU Leadership Academy in Amman. Witnessing the signing ceremony was former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who is a member of the board of trustees of UNU (Petra photo)

## U.N. Leadership Academy to be set up in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An idea 14 years in the making became reality Monday with the signatures of Rateb Saoud, minister of higher education and Heitor Gurgulino de Souza, the United Nations under-secretary general and rector of the United Nations University (UNU).

The UNU Leadership Academy, Amman, adds itself to the list of six UNU research and training centres worldwide.

The university is an establishment that brings together the world's leading scholars to tackle problems parallel to the U.N.'s agenda, and helps to alleviate the isolation of researchers in developing countries.

The university's charter was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1973, and the institution has since operated as an autonomous U.N. body whose work is carried out through its network of five research and training centres and 21 developed and developing countries that host collaborative training activities.

The U.N. agenda sets the pace for training and research programmes at all institutions, said Dr. de Souza.

The university's work in the 1990 has focused on universal human values and global responsibilities, the world economy, global life-support systems, scientific and technological advances and population dynamics and

human welfare.

Andreas Pastrana, Leadership Academy director in Amman, said that the academy hoped to welcome its first students to Jordan in late September or early October.

"We will have, at first, approximately 15 students, all under age of 40 who have completed graduate work or research — these may be members of non-governmental organisations, cultural or religious leaders or journalists," Dr. Pastrana said. "We will bring them here for a month to three months to see the peace process, perhaps take them to Israel and Gaza Strip — we want them to see the problems here first hand."

The UNU receives no funds from the regular U.N. budget, rather, it relies on voluntary contributions from governments, agencies, foundations and individual donors.

Its basic annual income for operating expenses is investment income from a U.S.\$283 million endowment fund.

The Leadership Academy will be established by a one-million contribution by the Jordanian government.

Funds from other interest parties are being mobilised, said Dr. de Souza, adding that recently, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has expressed interest in contributing to the project.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

Film entitled "Company of Wolves" at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 12:00 noon and 9:00 p.m.

### POETRY RECITAL

Poetry recital by Taher Riyadh, Habib Al Sayegh, Mohammad Al Amiri, Yousef Al Haboub, and Ahmad Dahbour at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITION

Exhibition of plastic art by several Jordanian artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

Exhibition of paintings by Mahmoud Sadeq at Alia Art Gallery.

Photography exhibition entitled "Fuentes de la Memoria" at Institute Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

## 'House expected to convene in extraordinary session in May'

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament is expected to convene in an extraordinary session in the last week of May amidst expectations that its agenda will include additional draft laws to those included in the request for the session that was made by 44 deputies, parliamentary sources said Monday.

Sources said that the Cabinet has already approved the deputies' request for the convening of the session and forwarded the request to His Majesty King Hussein who has the constitutional right to summon the House for extraordinary sessions.

The 17-member Islamic Action Front (IAF) parliamentary bloc was the major force in rallying deputies' support for the session in what was described as an

attempt to prevent the inclusion of draft laws cancelling the economic boycott of Israel on its agenda.

IAF sources have said that if an extraordinary session is held upon the request of deputies, its agenda should be restricted to items specified by them in accordance with Clause 2 of Article 82 of the Constitution.

But other sources argued the agendas of extraordinary parliamentary sessions are set by the Royal Decrees that summon them.

Article 82 of the Constitution stipulates in two separate clauses that extraordinary sessions can be held upon either the request of the majority of members of the House or by orders of the King. Their agendas are restricted to the items specified by the Royal Decree summoning them.

House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Sour told the Jordan

the Royal Decree.

He said there are precedents when additional items to those requested by the deputies have been added to the agenda by the Royal Decree.

Sources said the session would be summoned in accordance with both clauses of Article 82 of the Constitution, thus solving the controversy over who sets the agenda.

Accordingly, it is expected that the draft laws cancelling the economic boycott of Israel will be on the agenda of the extraordinary session, whose duration is not yet clear.

Jordan is bound to cancel all laws banning economic and other dealings with Israel under the peace treaty that both countries signed on Oct. 26, 1994. The treaty, as an external obligation of the Kingdom, has supremacy over other domestic laws.

IAF and leftist deputies managed to prevent the House from discussing the draft laws cancelling the boycott of Israel in the last meeting of the second ordinary session of the House when they boycotted the meeting and denied it a quorum.

Mr. Sour said that among the important legislation the session is expected to address are new internal regulations of the House as well as an amended draft labour law.

Other sources said among the controversial legislation that the House will deal with is a new public hearing draft law.

Mr. Sour said the House could convene in one of the halls of the King Abdullah Mosque, which is adjacent to the Parliament building, because maintenance work on the building is not expected to be completed before the session starts.



Sa'd Hayel Sour

Times the controversy of who sets the agenda of the session is raised whenever an extraordinary session is about to convene, but the "stronger opinion" is that it is set by

## Proposed traffic law amendments slap higher fines, imprisonment on violators Road safety advocate says awareness is key

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The new amendments to the Traffic Law, endorsed by the Cabinet on Sunday, impose strict regulations and new fines for reckless driving and drunk drivers.

The draft amendments, which will be presented to the Lower House of Parliament for discussion and ratification, call for revoking the driving licence and imprisoning any person found driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol for a minimum of three months. Imprisonment, in such cases in particular,

cannot be substituted by a fine, according to the draft amendments.

Most of the amendments introduced in the draft law dealt mainly with an increase in the amount of fines set for traffic violations.

Raising a red light for example, a JD 53 fine in the current law, will yield a minimum of JD 100 and a maximum JD 200 under the proposed amendments.

The same set of fines is also applicable in cases of racing in public streets without prior permission from the concerned authorities.

"I don't believe in increasing the fines nor imprison-

ment. Collecting money should not be the objective," said Mohammad Dabbas, president of the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents. "It is better to educate people."

But Mr. Dabbas, a former minister of finance, said the strict regulations, though not the best way to lessen road accidents, were necessary.

He said new methods to raise public awareness of road safety should be introduced at all levels and to all institutions, schools, mosques, churches, at home and everywhere, but stricter regulations are directly needed to reduce the number, not only

"Sometimes, severe punishments to violations might be a deterrent," he added. "But increasing the punitive measure only would not contribute to decreasing road accidents."

According to Mr. Dabbas, stricter regulations should be imposed on new drivers. He said the Traffic Department should issue temporary permits for new drivers in the first year. A permanent one should be given at a later stage. Also, driving licences should be withdrawn if the driver was fined numerous times within a short period of time; he said.

## Peres chats with Jordanians on stroll through Jabal Amman

AMMAN (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres took a stroll down one of Amman's main commercial thoroughfares Monday, challenging anti-Israeli sentiments here and causing consternation among Jordanian and Israeli security men.

A construction worker, who gave his name only as Ahmad, said after Mr. Peres stopped him for a brief chat: "I thought they were shooting a movie. It didn't seem real at all."

Mr. Peres' presence on Kulliyeh Al-Islamiyah Street drew the attention of motorists, some of whom stopped to see if it really was an Israeli cabinet minister ambling down the sidewalk.

At least 30 frantic Jordanian police officers and plain-clothes security men and a handful of Israeli security agents surrounded Mr. Peres in the 800-metre walk which ended metres away from the Iraqi embassy.

## Arab ministers set guidelines for electric power linkages

AMMAN (Petra) — The first meeting of the Arab council of ministers responsible for electric energy held in Cairo last week laid down fundamental guidelines for linking the power grids in the Arab World and between this region and Europe through Turkey in the east and Spain in the west.

Monday, Mr. Darwazeh, who represented Jordan at the Cairo meeting, said the council endorsed a plan to create a technical committee representing all Arab states to prepare the ground for the council's coming meetings and those of its executive bureau.

The ministerial council, which convened at the Arab

League headquarters, also approved plans to unify terms, specifications and measures.

According to Mr. Darwazeh, the council urged the speeding up of plans to link the electric grids of Egypt, Libya, and Tunis in North Africa, Syria and Lebanon in the eastern flank of the Arab World and the grids of the Gulf countries.

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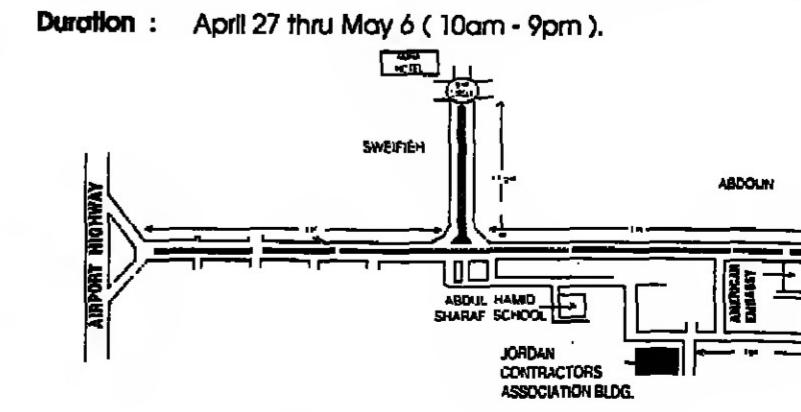
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## N. Korea hints it will reopen nuclear talks with U.S.

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea strongly indicated Monday that it will return to the negotiating table rather than turn its back to restart its nuclear programme, but said Washington should first meet certain "conditions."

"We attach great importance to dialogue with the United States and can have a talk," a North Korean U.N. official said in a telephone interview with the South's Yonhap News Agency.

It was the first official expression of North Korea's willingness to accept a new deal in Geneva, upgraded from failed working-level negotiations in Berlin.

But the official involved in the U.S.-North Korea talks called on Washington to come up with a compromise deal before reopening the talks, Yonhap said in a dispatch from Washington.

He stressed that new talks could be held "soon" if "various conditions should be met," Yonhap said, adding Washington hopes to hold the talks in the first week of May.

"The Americans had previously asked us to meet certain conditions. The situation has changed over the year, so we now should follow the precedent they set," he told Yonhap.

The Berlin talks broke down over the North's refusal

to accept safer reactors from its bitter rival South Korea under the October 1994 Geneva agreement, which defused a dragging crisis on the volatile Korean peninsula.

In Saturday, North Korea said it would take "decisive measures" on the offer of fresh talks made by U.S. Ambassador-at-large Robert Gallucci after the breakdown of technical talks in the German capital Thursday.

Several formulas have been suggested to overcome the North's refusal to accept reactors from its bitter rival in the South, including the appointment of an American company to head a construction consortium.

Meanwhile, the head of a Polish peacekeeping team expelled from North Korea in February arrived in the South Monday to attend a regular peace monitors' meeting, the Foreign Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman said Major General Krystof Owczarek would attend the annual meeting here of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC), which is charged with monitoring the truce that ended 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korea, which is trying to have the truce mechanism replaced with a new peace treaty, expelled the Polish team from their camp the truce village of Panmunjom which straddles the Demilitarized Zone in February.

But the Polish government

said subsequently that despite the expulsion it would remain a member of the NNSC.

A ministry spokesman said that during his visit here Gen. Owczarek would discuss with Swedish and Swiss delegates ways to operate the now-emasculated NNSC.

"He will participate in the NNSC meeting, but the main purpose of his visit is to find out the possibilities practical ways of continued cooperation with the NNSC. He will be seeing a lot of people," a Polish embassy spokesman told AFP.

The Swedish and Swiss monitor the truce from the South side of the DMZ, but the explosion of the Poles after the non-replacement of the contingent from the former Czechoslovakia, has left a vacuum on the North side.

The United Nations Command which signed the truce with North Korea and the Chinese People's Volunteer Army in July of 1953, has warned that the breakdown of the mechanism without a new treaty in its place is fraught with danger.

North Korea argues that it should sign a new treaty with the United States, while Washington, with China's support, says South Korea must be involved in any new treaty.

## U.N. urges cooperation from NAM

BANDUNG, Indonesia (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali made an impassioned plea Monday to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), meeting here, to work within the world body.

"As the world witnesses basic changes in international relations, the NAM faces the challenge of adapting to the changed world situation," Dr. Ghali told delegates here.

"It is particularly important for the NAM to work, within the framework of the U.N., towards the creation, through effective and constant cooperation, of a new system of international relations consistent with the aspirations and hopes of the peoples of the NAM," he said.

Dr. Ghali was speaking at a ceremony commemorating the Asia-Africa conference here in 1955 at which 29 nations gathered to call for decolonisation and world peace in the early years of the cold war.

Held in the original Gedung Merdeka, or Freedom Building, in this hilltown 200 kilometres southeast of the capital Jakarta, the commemoration began with a re-enactment of the original 100-metre walk by delegates from the historic Savoy Homann Hotel to the hall.

While photographs show the original stroll down a spacious street, the atmosphere of the recreation was lost in a modern crush of dozens of television cameras.

men and photographers.

Later, speakers from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America recalled how vital the Bandung Conference was for the formation in 1961 of the NAM by 25 countries.

The ceremony also marked the opening of the meeting of the coordinating bureau of the NAM, which following the weekend addition of Eritrea, now has 112 members.

In his address NAM chairman, Indonesia's President Suharto, said the movement had contributed to a number of worthy causes including eradicating colonialism, and was in the vanguard against institutionalised racism such as apartheid and a champion of disarmament.

Mr. Budgen, one of the MPs expelled from the party in November in a row over the European Union, said he knew peace talks had taken place.

"I don't know about the details. I know there have been discussions over the weekend," he told BBC Radio.

Mr. Budgen and seven other Conservative MPs were sacked for refusing to vote in favour of a parliamentary motion to increase payments by Britain to the EU budget.

Independent candidates

gained further momentum in the mayoral and city assembly polls Sunday following upset wins by independent candidates in the Tokyo and Osaka gubernatorial elections.

## Major set to heal rift in his party

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major may be set to heal a rift in his Conservative Party by bringing back into the fold nine MPs whose rebellion has robbed him of an overall majority in parliament, a leading rebel said Monday.

Nicholas Budgen, one of

the MPs expelled from the party in November in a row

over the European Union,

said he knew peace talks had

taken place.

"The results show how seriously people distrust the existing politics and parties," said Takashi Saito, a political professor at Gakushuin University.

Such a tendency is likely to continue in not only local polls but also parliamentary level," Mr. Saito said. "If existing parties fail to take immediate action to gain support, they are going to make an irreparable error."

## Japanese ruling parties beaten as independents gain momentum

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's ruling parties lost heavily in the second round of local elections, amid growing apathy or even repulsion and apathy towards the current politics, analysts said Monday.

Independent candidates

gained further momentum in

the mayoral and city assembly

polls Sunday following

upset wins by independent

candidates in the Tokyo and

Osaka gubernatorial elections.

Turnout at the polls was

the lowest ever. Voting rates

in mayoral elections fell by

6.6 percentage points to 60

per cent and those in munici-

pal assemblies were down

5.1 points to 60.3 per cent.

The ruling Liberal Demo-

cratic Party (LDP), the

largest single party in parlia-

ment and in the coalition

government, won only 968

seats, a record low, in munici-

pal assemblies, 24 per cent

down from the previous elec-

tion in 1991.

Scientists develop Himalayan contraceptive

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian

scientists have developed a

herbal contraceptive from a

plant that grows in the foot-

ills of the Himalayan Moun-

tain, a newspaper reported.

The Pioneer said the pippali

yadi plant has been used by native tribes and in

rural areas but mainstream

society has now known of its

qualities. Ranjit Roy

Chaudhury, chairman of the

government's Interagency

Research Committee which

tested the plant, told the dai-

ly the oral contraceptive

would be low priced and

available to women by Aug.

15. "There will be no side

effects," he said, without

making clear how effective

the plant had been found to

be.

The rewards of literary success...

LONDON (R) — Writing novels appears to be one of

the best ways of making

money for British women,

according to a survey. Four

of the top six earners were

novelists, headed by Barbara

Taylor Bradford who earned

\$11.93 million (\$19.12 mil-

lion) in the past 12 months,

according to the survey in the

Mail On Sunday newspaper.

Second in the list was actress

Angela Lansbury followed by

Chinese-born Jung Chang,

author of worldwide best-

seller Wild Swans, and

Hollywood-based writer

Jackie Collins.

Police raid straying husband after ID mix-up

LONDON (R) — Armed

police raided a married man

enjoying a night with his mis-

teress after hotel staff mistook

him for an escaped murderer.

Edinburgh police said the 31-

year-old Scot booked a room

in a luxury hotel there. On

arriving, he registered under

a false name in an effort to be

discreet. But his chosen alias,

Scott Anderson, turned out

to be the real name of a

dangerous murderer whom

British police had been hunt-

ing for a month. The real

Anderson was even the "star"

of the previous week's

Crimewatch, a BBC televi-

sion programme which publicises

criminal investigations and

makes public appeals for

witnesses.

## Four Weddings scoops awards in London

LONDON (R) — The hit film Four Weddings And A Funeral, which catapulted its star Hugh Grant to stardom, won five awards at the British film awards Sunday pipping Oscar winner Forest Gump. The hit comedy, which has made more than £170 million (\$272.5 million) at the box office, charts the romances and marriages of a group of young middle-class Britons. At the BAFTA ceremonies it won the Award for Best Film, the David Lean Award for Best Achievement in Direction for director Mike Newell, best actor for Grant, best supporting actress for Kristin Scott Thomas, and a special prize for Most Popular Film. American actress Susan Sarandon took the prize for best actress for her role in The Client. Britain's Joanna Lumley received the best comedy performance for her role in Absolutely Fabulous.

Murphy, 36, a trained astro-

physicist, could have shed

light on the subway massacre

at the "science and technolo-

gy minister" of the self-

contained Aum regime which

is suspected of producing the

Nazi-invented Sarin nerve

gas.

Police have found a huge

stockpile of chemicals, suit-

able for making sarin, and a

hidden laboratory at the com-

pany.

But hours later, another

sect member — Shigeyuki

Easegawa, was picked up

in Shizuoka, west of Tokyo,



## Jordan Times

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## History on the go

JORDAN HAS made history twice in the past six years: First, when it introduced pluralistic democracy in its political system in 1989 and second when the Kingdom signed a peace accord with Israel in 1994. The two historic turns may have come independently of each other, but they are not mutually exclusive by any stretch of the imagination, nor should they be.

To start with, democracy as understood and practised worldwide means that people of all walks of life and with different or even opposing points of view are or should be at liberty to defend their respective opinions on national and foreign issues as long as this is done in a manner that does not threaten domestic peace and security. Then, the ratification of the peace treaty with Israel means that the treaty is part of the law of the land and it enjoys priority over all national laws with the exception of the Constitution. Promoting and protecting the former should not prejudice the latter, just as defending the latter should not compromise the former.

Yet, recent developments on the local scene suggest that we are confusing the handling of the two issues as if they are diametrically opposed to one another in nature and practicability. To cite just a couple of examples, thwarting a planned lecture by a former prime minister who has serious reservations about the treaty with Israel smacks of undemocratic policy. In the same vein, preventing a coalition of opposition parties from holding a conference against normalisation also runs counter to democratic norms.

Even though the people of Jordan have given their verdict on the treaty approving it by a large majority in a parliamentary vote, we fail to understand the basis on which people who are still opposed to the treaty itself or to some of its terms can be justly and fairly precluded from saying their minds.

The problem, though, does not rest there. On the legislative level, there are discouraging signs looming in the horizon which in their cumulative effect may give the totally wrong impression about our commitment to democracy. The draft laws on crime prevention and the holding of public meetings without a licence are a case in point. True each and every country has its own peculiar conditions which would necessarily impose certain variations in the application of democratic standards. Still there are certain basic rules on democracy which are universal in character and cannot be repudiated by the stroke of a pen. There is no democratic country worthy of the name which calls for a permit for holding a public meeting except to the extent necessary for maintaining order, unless of course the purpose of any such meeting constitutes a crime. Small gatherings not exceeding a few tens of people are never regulated except where there is a security risk such as the absence of an adequate fire escape.

As we see the issue, this country is committed to democracy and to the peace treaty. One obligation can and should be used to bolster the other. This is not an impossible mission as long as we remain faithful to the two objectives.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

PERHAPS the Arab countries in North Africa are more interested in the French presidential elections than other Arab states in view of the strong economic, social and political links they have with France, but the rest of the Arab World is also looking forward to see a new president sympathising with their cause, said a columnist in Al Rai's daily Monday. It is true that the Arabs have no particular favourite among the presidential candidates to advocate their causes and support their views over those of Israel, yet the Arab masses are looking with hope to see a new president keen on serving the cause of justice and peace, said Mahmoud Rumawi. The writer said the Arabs want to see a French president steering France playing a more meaningful role within the European Union to end Israel's intransigence. Despite progress made in the peace process, Israel continues to occupy Arab land in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon, holds on to its mass destruction weapons and does not recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, said the writer. In addition, he said, the Arabs hope that France, under a new leadership, would pursue its efforts to terminate the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people and thus safeguard Arab as well as French interests in the region.

## The View from Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

## The delicate condition of the Arab Nation

IT IS always instructive to notice the close coincidence between political and economic conditions in the Arab World. The past year, for example, has been a pretty typical one for the modern Arab World in terms of official and public violence, civil wars and general political tension — civil wars in Yemen, Somalia and Sudan, a bloody confrontation between state and opposition in Algeria, some street violence, deaths and arrests in Bahrain, continued killings by the state and the opposition in Egypt, open political opposition in Saudi Arabia, arrests of Islamists in Oman, continued death and occupation in Lebanon and Palestine due mainly but not exclusively to the Israeli occupation, ongoing national confusion in Iraq and Libya due to domestic autocracy and foreign subjugation, some rather tame political confrontations between government and opposition in Jordan over the peace accord with Israel, and you get the idea of what I mean when I say this has been a rather typical year for the Arab World.

One explanation for this state of affairs is the underlying economic stress that defines much of the Arab World. This is clearly visible in the indicators in the 1994 Unified Arab Economic Report, published jointly by the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries and the League of Arab States.

The latest report shows a continuation of recent trends. Most socio-economic indicators improved steadily in the Arab World from mid-century to the early 1980s, but since then most indicators have either worsened or barely held steady, with no real improvement. Here are some summary findings of the latest report:

The general Arab condition is characterised by population growth that is much faster than economic growth, leading to two dangerous phenomena: stagnant individual incomes, and a growing gap between rich and poor. Total Arab population reached 240 million in 1993, representing 45 per cent growth over the population of 165 million in 1980. During this same period, overall Arab gross national product (GNP) in current prices grew by just 15 per cent, from \$440 billion to \$508 billion, while gross domestic product (GDP) increased by a slightly higher 18 per cent, also to \$508 billion.

Consequently, per capita income has declined steadily in the last 14 years; per capita GNP at current prices dropped by 36 per cent from 1980-1993, from \$3283 to \$2116, while per capita GDP dropped by 19 per cent, from \$2612 to \$2116. In real terms, accounting for inflation, the drop in average income and living standards is much higher. The positive note in this picture is the sign of recent improvements in per capita income. In the period 1990-1993, per capita GNP increased from \$1879 to \$2116.

These statistics, when further broken down into oil producers and non-oil producers, however, reveal the following: While overall Arab GDP per capita increased from \$2040 to \$2116 in the period 1990-

1993, the GDP per capita in oil producing states declined nominally from \$4913 to \$4829, while in the non-oil producers it increased from \$743 to \$859 — revealing a rather significant disparity between average individual incomes in the rich and poor Arab states.

Even more interesting facts emerge if we let the statistics reflect reality. If we take Iraq and Algeria out of the oil producers and put them into the poor Arabs' camp, reflecting their slide into conflict-induced economic distress in the last few years, we find the following: Per capita GDP in the Arab oil producers (excluding Iraq and Algeria) increased from \$7846 to \$8172 in 1990-1993; in the poor Arab states (including Algeria and Iraq [welcome, guys, it's kind of rough in this neighbourhood, but you'll get used to it after a while, the weather's real nice most of the year, and Ron Brown and Al Gore drop in for visits every now and then, which kind of livens things up]), GDP per capita increased only nominally, from \$1271 to \$1284. The ratio of per capita GDP in the poor to the rich Arab states increased in this four-year period, from 5.6 to 6.4, indicating a fast rate of increase in the gap between rich and poor Arab states.

In other words, the Arab World is divided into two groups of people: About 211 million Arabs are relatively poor, with a per capita income of some \$1284, which is just barely maintaining its level, and about 29 million Arabs are relatively well off, with a per capita income of some \$8172 that is holding steady or increasing only slightly.

This trend takes place a time when Arab proven oil reserves continue to increase in real terms (from 507 to 630 billion barrels in the period 1987-1993) and as a percentage of world reserves (from 57 to 62 per cent in the same period), and as Arab oil production keeps increasing (from 12.7 to 17.8 million barrels per day in that period).

Arab food imports remain relatively unchanged, at around \$20 billion per year, while the pan-Arab food gap has declined slightly in recent years, from an annual average of some \$12 billion in the mid-1980s to an average of \$9.2 billion in 1991-92.

Some positive trends are evident in Arab fiscal trends. Arab public expenditures as a percentage of GDP have declined slightly, from an average of around 43 per cent in the mid-1980s to around 40 per cent in 1992-93; this remains a very high figure, reflecting the unusually large extent to which Arab central governments control the overall economic destiny of their people.

Defence and security spending remains high and unchanged from earlier years, averaging 27 per cent of total current expenditures in 1992-93. This is partly explained by the conflict with Israel, but more generally, it reflects most Arab regimes' preoccupation with maintaining their incumbency through absolute control of military power, alongside their heavy control of fiscal power.

Arab states also remain heavily dependent on

foreign economies for their commercial trade, while inter-Arab trade remains relatively low at around 9 per cent of total Arab foreign trade (compared to around eight per cent in 1985).

Arab foreign debt has held steady at around \$155 billion in recent years, according to the published figures, which need to be taken with a grain of salt — given the proven penchant of Arab states to disguise or totally hide some of their foreign debt, especially military debt. (My own guess is that real Arab foreign debt is over \$200 billion).

The debt burden on these borrowings remains at some \$11 billion a year, compared to an annual average of \$8 billion in the mid-1980s. In 1992, the Arab states repaid \$11 billion in principal and \$4.7 billion in interest on their foreign debt.

Meanwhile, official reserves have improved slightly, rising from an average of \$37 billion in the late 1980s to an average of \$46 billion in the mid-1990s — though the 1993 figure of \$47 billion is slightly less than the \$48 billion in Arab reserves in 1985.

Arab government budget deficits have not followed a clear trend, but rather fluctuate widely, from a low of \$15 billion in 1990 to a high of \$65 billion in 1991 (the Gulf war year, when rental payments for Western armies caused a severe rise in Arab government protection racket payments, er, excuse me, that is, I mean, unexpected budgetary spending). The collective Arab government budget deficit in 1993 was \$41 billion.

A good sign is the decline in Arab government budget deficits as a percentage of GDP — from 18 per cent in 1991 and 11.3 per cent in 1992, to 9.6 per cent in 1993. This reflects the application of strict economic adjustment programmes.

These indicators are useful in pointing out general trends in the condition of the Arab Nation, which remains in rather delicate economic and political shape. The greatest problem remains the severe imbalance between brisk population growth and sluggish economic expansion; this results in a large and perhaps even growing number of families living in poverty, high unemployment and underemployment, and sustained need for economic adjustment programmes that aggravate pressures on ordinary families.

It is interesting nowadays also to note the geopolitical implications of economic conditions in the Arab region, as some Arab states find themselves so pressured by economic stress that they must seek refuge and succor in imperial tutelage in Washington. It is particularly interesting to note that this is happening to both rich and poor Arab states, such as, for example, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Whether this works or not remains for history to determine. All we can do today is to continue to try to identify the underlying reasons for the violent, fractured, dependent condition of the Arab region, and, annually, to thank the four Arab institutions that produce the Unified Arab Economic Report for their most useful act of pan-Arab service and faith.

M. KAHLI



## More nationalist France may emerge from ballot

By Paul Taylor  
Reuter

PARIS — Foreign policy has barely figured in France's presidential campaign but victory for conservative favourite Jacques Chirac would make Paris more assertive in Europe and reassure old Arab and African allies, diplomats say.

There were few differences in the foreign policy platforms that Mr. Chirac, his fellow conservative rival Edouard Balladur and Socialist contender Lionel Jospin set out during the campaign.

All three endorsed a single European Union (EU) currency, although only Mr. Balladur said France should work to achieve it by 1997. The other two said the 1999, the later of two dates set in the Maastricht Treaty, was more realistic.

And all three pledged to build on the strategic partnership with Germany that has been the axis of French foreign policy for three decades.

"The difference is not so much in what they say as in their instincts towards Europe," an EU diplomat said. "Chirac is instinctively

an assertive France-first nationalist, Balladur is a cautious, pragmatist. Only Jospin is an enthusiast."

But opinion polls suggest Mr. Jospin has virtually no chance of succeeding Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, the last in a generation of fervently pro-European leaders.

Other prominent of pro-Europeans, former European Commission chief Jacques Delors, ex-president Valery Giscard d'Estaing and former prime minister Raymond Barre, decided against entering the presidential race.

Bosnia briefly became a campaign issue when two French U.N. peacekeepers were shot dead by snipers in Sarajevo last weekend.

True to their characters, Mr. Chirac demanded that U.N. forces be empowered to shoot back, Mr. Balladur threatened to withdraw them and Mr. Jospin called for more diplomatic pressure on the Serbs.

Among France's European neighbours, only Britain is likely to have cause for celebration of a Chirac victory.

Prime Minister John Major praised the anti-federalist view of the EU's future that Mr. Balladur

outlined in the newspaper *Le Monde* last year so warmly that he embarrassed

itself. Both Mr. Balladur and Mr. Chirac propose restricting the powers of the Brussels commission and the European Parliament and giving more authority to the council of EU member states.

Mr. Chirac said recently his aim would be to reconcile the British position, opposed to any further EU integration, with Germany's support for a much more integrated, federal system.

Chirac is an old-style Gaullist. He may give the British trouble on agriculture and fisheries, as he did when he was prime minister, but he has an instinctive respect for Britain as an old nation, another European diplomat said.

The Paris mayor counts among his supporters both Philippe Seguin, leader of the referendum campaign against the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, and pro-

Europeans such as Foreign Minister Alain Juppé and Enterprise Minister Alain Madelin.

French policymakers have made clear they would prefer to deal with Mr. Juppé as prime minister and would be worried by a Chirac-Balladur run-off in which Mr. Seguin might emerge as Mr. Chirac's key asset and a potential premier.

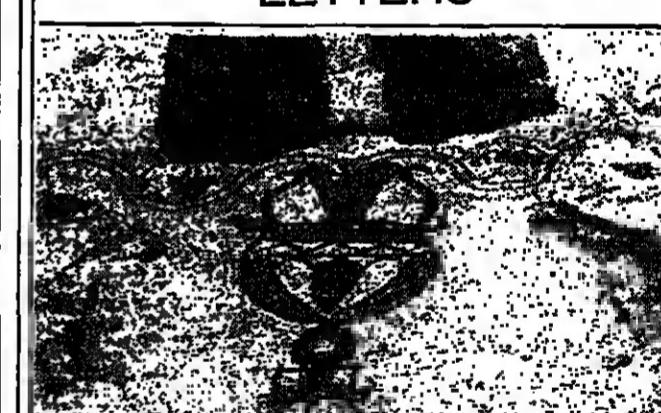
However National Assembly Speaker Seguin sought to reassure the Germans this week, saying he accepted a single EU currency and pledging that Mr. Chirac would seek agreement with Bonn before changing economic policy to give priority to creating jobs.

Mr. Chirac is likely to be welcomed by the British, diplomats say. Arab states, including Iraq, which have traditionally benefited from Gaullist rule, would welcome a Chirac victory.

The foreign ministry received anxious Arab inquiries after Mr. Balladur said in an interview with a Jewish newspaper last month that the Jews had "a little bit more" of a right to occupied Jerusalem than did other religions.

Mr. Chirac has close personal ties with many African leaders and counts among his advisers Jacques Foccart, long-time Gaullist kingmaker on the continent.

## LETTERS



A mosaic amphora in Khirbet Othman church

## Stop demolishing the Kilda Umayad church

To the Editor:

ONCE AGAIN, a very important archaeological site is threatened with total destruction in the Khilda area. The site, known as "Khirbet Othman," consists of a church from the early Umayad period (A.D. 687), which was built by Bishop George and dedicated to Saint Varus, and the remains of an Ayyubid-Mamluk village.

Part of the site has already been bulldozed to lay the ground for the construction of a modern building. The bedrock is littered with stone tools used by early humans from the Paleolithic period. This dates the site back to about 40,000 years and not to the late Bronze Age as previously assumed.

Evidence of the importance of the site is provided in what Dr. Robert Schick wrote in his thesis (the fate of the Christians in Palestine during the Byzantine-Umayad Transition), in which he says "these Churches, in addition to providing us with valuable historical and artistic evidence demonstrate the prevailing mood of tolerance in early Islamic periods and call into serious question the widely accepted assumption that Islamic rule caused a widespread destruction, and that Islamic authorities prohibited the construction of new churches as well as the renovation of existing ones."

This important Islamic-Christian site must be protected now, and by all means. We should not accept the loss of our national heritage under any pretense.

Protection of this site is provided under the Jordanian antiquities law which prohibits even partial destruction of any archaeological site and also provides for the prosecution of the persons responsible for it. It is time for the law to be enforced.

Ghazi Saudi,  
Administrative Committee member,  
Friends of Archaeology,  
Amman.

*The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.*

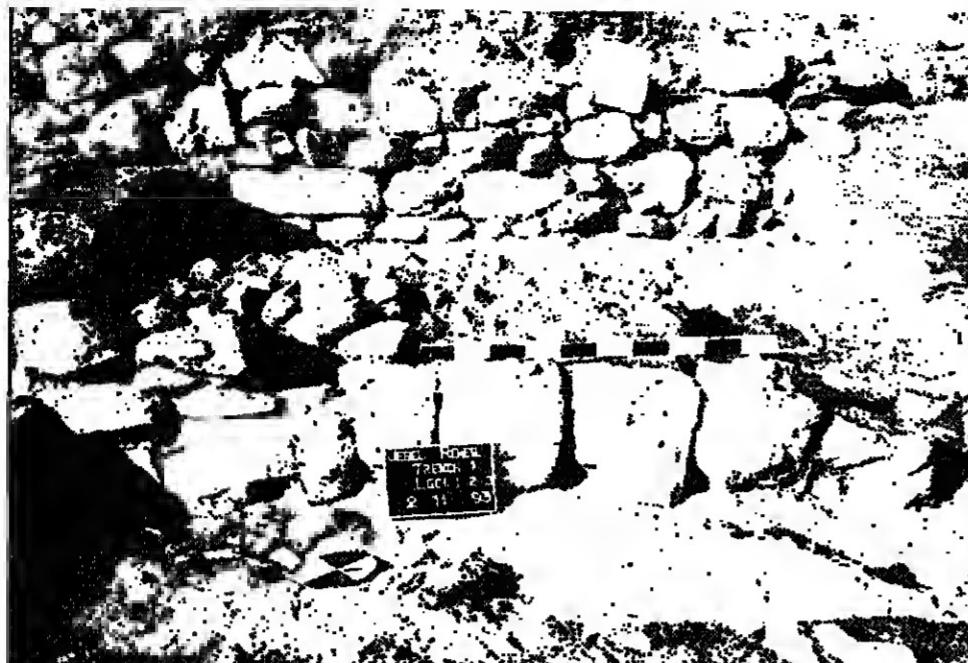
## Upper Zerqa River survey reveals wealth, vulnerability of Jordan's antiquities

By Rami G. Khouri  
Special to the Jordan Times

**EXACTLY HOW** rich is Jordan in antiquities sites, and how many sites remain to be documented? The recent experience of a University of Rome team of archaeologists, led by Gaetano Palumbo, in the Upper Zerqa River area reveals much about these two important questions — and it also reminds us of the urgency of protecting and documenting many important sites that are threatened with destruction due to urban expansion, agricultural activity and road building.

When Dr. Palumbo's team surveyed a 90-square-kilometre stretch of land around the Upper Zerqa River in late 1993, they were mainly interested in understanding the relationship between nomads and sedentary people during different time periods. They aimed to do this by identifying and studying different types of archaeological sites. They chose this area for several reasons: Little vegetation cover allows for good ground visibility and identification of sites from aerial photographs, and there is a high concentration of sites from many ancient periods due to the availability of arable land and permanent water resources from the Zerqa River and Wadi Dhuleil.

The team also recorded sites that are not usually considered archaeological in nature, such as recent bedouin encampments and traditional villages dating from the period after 1800, in order to collect a complete record of human occupation and land use. At the end of the one-month survey, they had identified a total of 218 new sites that had never been documented before, and that could be added to the



An enclosure wall excavated at one of the survey sites, possibly dating from the EBII period.

35 sites previously identified by surveys earlier this century.

Of the 218 sites identified in the 90-square-kilometre survey area, most were burial cairns and tumuli on hilltops, though some were major ancient settlement sites that require extensive exploration. Virtually every single hilltop or ridge had one or more cairns, typically a pile of stones covering a cist tomb. Two of these sites can be positively identified as towers, but the rest are burials.

An interesting aspect of this work is that 199 of the 218 identified sites were documented from aerial photographs, while 19 were identified through intensive "transect" surveys. Among the identified sites were a mill, two towers, two cemeteries, three farms/hamlets, three forts, 19 settlements, 26 stone circles, 44 groups of cairns and 73 isolated cairns. The rest of the sites comprised isolated buildings, cave areas, enclosures, surface scatters or

pottery shards or stone tools, isolated buildings, and unidentified structures.

At the 69 sites that were visited and investigated by the team, the most frequently represented historical periods were Byzantine (20 sites), Ayyubid/Mamluke (20), Roman (17), Iron II (9), Early Bronze (EB) II (8), Umayyad (16) and Epipaleolithic (6). Every single other historical period was also represented by a smaller number of sites, except for Late Bronze and Iron I.

The pattern of historical occupation of the Upper Zerqa River area reflects the same situation that characterizes much of north Jordan. There is considerable evidence of prehistoric activity spanning the Lower Paleolithic through the Chalcolithic periods (circa 500,000-3300 BC), including several Chalcolithic villages near the confluence of the Zerqa River and Wadi Dhuleil. The first "intensive colonisation of the area". Dr. Palumbo told



Part of the massive fortification walls at a large, multi-period site in the survey area, with remains from the Early Bronze, Iron, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods; this wall probably dates from the Iron II period (Photos courtesy Gaetano Palumbo)

in the Jordan Times in a recent interview in Amman, "seems to start in the Early Bronze Age, especially in EBII (3000-2700 BC)."

Over 20 per cent of all sites investigated had an EB component, which was often the dominant one. Three of the EBII sites are fortified settlements. The Middle and Late Bronze periods, as in most of north Jordan, are less well represented; human activity in the region seems to pick up again in the Iron II period (918-539 BC), from which the team identified several important settlements, forts and fortified towns.

The high percentage of Roman and Byzantine sites mirrors the history of most of north Jordan; in this region, it also reflects the proximity of the nearby important Roman/Byzantine towns at Jerash to the west and Khirbet Es Samra to the east.

Among the unusual trends vis-a-vis the historical patterns of Jordan's ancient history are the de-

mic re-use, appeared virtually intact in a 1978 aerial photo; but in 1983 many of its stone circles had disappeared, the structure suffered heavy damage during the construction of the new road to Jerash, and the entire north wall of the fort was recently bulldozed for no apparent reason.

At the site of Khirbet Wad'ah, a very large Roman, Byzantine and Islamic village nestled among mountains north of the river, some decorated stones in a large building were apparently stolen in the brief period between the two visits the archaeologists made to the site; fortunately, they had photographed the building on the first visit.

Another nearby site called Wad'ah, on a wide terrace above the Zerqa River, comprises the remains of a very large Pottery Neolithic Yarmoukian village (6000-5000 BC). The site was cut by the construction of a new road, and some 500 metres of sections

are visible along the road. The large Early Bronze Age fortified town at Jreyeh, on the northern periphery of Zerqa, has been heavily disturbed by treasure hunters and is also threatened by new construction activity.

**Jebel Er Reheil** soundings

The team conducted three soundings at the important Early Bronze Age townsite of Jebel Er Reheil, which had been first recorded in 1935 by Nelson Glueck, and was reexamined briefly by Dr. Palumbo in 1988. The soundings aimed to clarify the relationship between the two main periods of settlement at the site, the EBII and EBIV periods.

An intensive surface survey at Jebel Er Reheil collected pottery sherds from the EBII, EBIV and Mamluke periods.

The excavations revealed three parallel walls in a sounding along the eastern slope of the site; these are

probably a series of terrace walls, but they may also form part of the town's fortification system. The predominance of EBIV sherds in this area helps date these structures to the late third millennium BC.

A second sounding, carried out in an area where a robber's trench had already penetrated the ground, identified two major strata: an EBIV layer associated with a wall, and a lower, EBII layer on bedrock that probably represented an ancient courtyard which included the remains of two tawabeen (bread ovens) and a refuse pit full of pottery sherds and ashes. EBIV finds included basalt, pottery and chipped stone artifacts, and a copper disc (probably a small copper ingot).

The third trench revealed two walls that were founded on bedrock and formed a right angle, associated with a possible floor surface full of fallen stones. It seems that this structure was originally built in the EBII period, and re-used in EBIV, to judge by the large number of EBIV sherds.

Further excavations are required to clarify the relationship between the two different EB occupations, though the large amounts of diagnostic pottery will allow the archaeologists to document continuity and change in pottery production techniques during the one thousand years of the Early Bronze Age II-IV eras (circa 3000-2000 BC).

The survey was funded by the Cultural Office of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Research Council of Italy, and received generous assistance from the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, and the Italian Embassy in Jordan. Excavations and survey work are expected to continue in 1995 or 1996.

## Symposium opens on development

(Continued from page 1)

letter from the president to the meeting.

"This symposium provides an important forum for discussing some of the major issues concerning the (Jordan Rift Valley) development," said the president. "I hope public and private officials from each of our nations will take this opportunity to share technical, economic, and financial expertise. Working together, I am confident we can build a brighter future for all our people."

Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Isheidat also underlined the importance that Jordan attaches to the symposium and the promises it holds out in terms of a better life for the people.

"Our young generation has known nothing but regional strife," said the minister. There is "no turning back" from Jordan's commitment to maintaining peace and to "resolve all outstanding issues with neighbours."

"Economic benefits should shore up the fragility of peace... (and should) transcend the political boundaries of the partners," he told the opening session.

The minister set out an 11-point list of priorities that, he said, Jordan believes, were essential to the success of the development efforts in the Jordan Rift Valley.

This included infrastructure to assure the movement of goods, inter-governmental cooperation in helping the private sector, public sector funding for essential infrastructure and services, equality between government in sharing the output of projects and quick decision-making.

Among the participants are: Raytheon International, Core International, Bechtel Corporation, Stone and Webster Corporation, the Dupont Group, Montgomery Watson, K&M Engineering, MCI International, Science Applications International, Atkinson Construction, AT&T, Cathier International, GTE, Harza Engineering, Camp, Dresser and McKee, Ecology and Development, FTR International, Morrison Knudsen, and Salomon Brothers.

The Israeli delegation to the symposium includes Alan Liel, director-general of the ministry of planning, Michel Arbel, a senior foreign ministry official, Refael Benevisti,

Pinhas Gueekstern and Joseph Vardi, advisors to the government, Pinhas Ben Shaul, head of the planning department of the Ports and Railway Authority, Michael Beyth, head of earth science research administration, Oded Eran, a senior economic expert, Valeri Brachya, a senior expert in the environment, Yoram Grushkevich of the Bezek telecommunications company, Yehuda Bronicki of Ormat, and Yoav Sarnes of Epstein and Sons.

Among the Jordanian officials attending the symposium are: Ministry of Planning Under-Secretary Nahil Ammari, Ministry of Tourism Secretary-General Ghassan Al Miftah, Royal Scientific Society President Hani Mulki, Jordan Electricity Authority Director-General Mohammad Arafah, Amman Financial Market Director-General Omaya Touqan, Telecommunications Corporation Deputy Director General Afram Jamil, Natural Resources Authority head Fakhri Dagestan, Qusai Qteishat, secretary-general of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Mr. Qteishat's deputy Zarar Aleem, and Prime Minister Advisor Abdul Aziz Wishali as well as executives of Jordanian companies.

**EU team**

(Continued from page 1)

neighbours.

Mr. Bajolet said that there was "less interest" among northern European countries in the Mediterranean but this interest is growing.

He said that France is trying to find a balance between "what we can do for East European countries and the Mediterranean."

France, said Mr. Bajolet,

will be more at ease if there

was a balance between the

EU's focus on European

countries which will eventually

join the union and the

Mediterranean neighbours to

the south.

Observers expect the EU

drive towards consolidating

ties with its Mediterranean

neighbours to maintain its

momentum when the EU

presidency is held by Spain in

the second half of 1995 due to

the concern that Spain also

has in developing ties with

the Mediterranean states.

Such a networking would

involve a master plan for

coordination among the par-

ticipants involved and a specially

mandated Jordanian-Israeli

authority, he said.

The establishment of an

authority by Jordan and Israel is essential, particularly

## Jordan, Israel agree on authority

(Continued from page 1)

The Crown Prince also noted that "the gestation period of the best organised projects... will be something in the neighbourhood of a full 18 months to two years — at best."

There should be close and continuous interaction between the authorities and the general public on the core concepts of developing the Jordan Rift Valley. "Simplicity is essential" to achieve this purpose, he said.

There has to be an "upgrading and modernising" of all laws and regulations related to investments and incentives for investors.

"As we move along nationally in terms of deregulation (and) ... investment promotion, ... easing of laws and regulations providing ease of access... is mandatory..." said the Crown Prince.

It is also important to bear in mind the possibility of a fast-track should be considered," he said, calling for a special economic zone which will provide a fully deregulated environment to help international business and start the process of establishing a trade hub north of the Dead Sea."

"Simplicity is essential to taking the general public on the side of the comprehensive development of the Jordan Rift Valley," he said, adding that the symposium should bring out ways to send the message to the world of "what we feel as the next clear step... where we stand specifically."

"We have come a long way in identifying objectives and projects," the Crown Prince told the session, which was attended by Mr. Peres.

Now the task ahead of planners were to bring about the means to implement the projects and this needs a "networking," said the Crown Prince. "It is extremely important that we decide what form of networking we need to proceed from the (October) summit if we are to realise the projects," he said.

Mr. Leil said the proposed authority "will not replace any existing ministries..." and noted that France and Germany, shortly after World War II, had launched a joint "steel and coal committee" which eventually led to the birth of the European Common Market.

In his comments at the press conference, Mr. Peres,

who also attended some of

the working sessions of the

symposium, said there was no

escape from accepting mar-

ket economy "or be left be-

hind."

According to Mr. Peres,

three billion of the world's six

billion people have opted for

market economy. "The dif-

ference is obvious," he said.

"Whoever did adopt market

economy is doing far better

than the ones who rejected

it."

"We feel that banks, insurance companies, corporations... will make an effort to invest" in the projects, he said, adding that a distinction should be made between "smaller and larger projects."

He spoke of a "ring road" linking Aqaba with Eilat and Egypt's Taba, setting up a free trade area for industry near the Red Sea, expanding the Aqaba airport, and linking Jordan's phosphate and Potash plants with Israeli railroads for export purposes.

"Instead of having a near miss over Aqaba, let us not miss the opportunity," said Mr. Peres, referring to the air raid on Aqaba.

"All these projects are payable, grantable," he said. "Many companies are showing interest already in doing the railroad."

Mr. Peres said the "idea is that private investors can invest and governments will guarantee..."

The Israeli prime minister was asked whether he was optimistic that the proposal for a Middle East development bank made by Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians and supported by the U.S. could be realised.

He said the four Middle Eastern parties had "declared that it was to our interest to have a development bank in the Middle East."

Noting that the U.S. was the prime mover behind the idea after the "core" Middle East parties suggested it, Mr. Peres conceded that "there are some resentments in Europe" but "there is also some agreement."

The main difference between the European and American approach to the proposal is whether the bank should have its own capital, which is expected to be set at \$5 billion. Some of the dissenting Europeans argue that existing financing arrangements are sufficient to meet the needs of the region.

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## Jordan-Israel trade accord almost ready, Peres says Israel also ready to discuss contradictions in Jordan-PNA, Israel-Palestinian accords

By P.V. Vivekanand  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday Israel and Jordan had almost finalised a trade agreement and that his country was ready to discuss any Israel-related problem related to implementing Jordanian-Palestinian accords.

The trade agreement is part of the accords that Jordan and Israel agreed to sign as part of a process of normalisation of ties following the signing of their peace treaty on Oct. 26.

Several rounds of negotiations were reported to have produced a draft accord, but Israel's insistence on limiting the extent of preferential treatment it would offer to Jordanian products was said to have been holding up the finalisation of the agreement.

Mr. Peres was asked at a press conference Monday on the fringes of a symposium on development of the Jordan Rift Valley on the reports, which also suggested that Israel was being insensitive to the huge disparity in the economies of the Kingdom and the Jewish state.

"I think the problem has been resolved," Mr. Peres replied. "The Jordanians have submitted a list of commodities that they want to export to the west of the

Jordan River. I think we have reached an agreement."

"On the contrary (to reports of Israeli insensitivity to economic disparities), Israel is asking Jordan to be a little bit more forthcoming on the issues, and I hope this too will be resolved," he added. He did not elaborate.

No Jordanian comment was immediately available. But informed sources said the sticking point in finalising the trade accord was a "free trade area" that Israel suggested as a component of the agreement.

Specific details of the proposal were not available, but, according to one source, "the idea of a free trade area (as part of the agreement) came up only recently and the proposal was new to Jordan."

"As such, Jordan is seeking a little bit of more time to study the issue before committing itself either way," said the source, who preferred anonymity. "But it could be a safe bet that the accord could be signed in four to five weeks."

Under the peace treaty, Jordan and Israel are supposed to sign several agreements before May 10, among them the trade accord. But "it will not be a disaster if such an important agreement as the trade accord is not signed before the deadline," said another source.

In his comments Monday, Mr. Peres acknowledged that

"there are contradictions" in agreements signed by Israel and the Palestinians and by Jordan and the Palestinians but said his country was ready to discuss and resolve them.

He said some of the "contradictions" were of "bilateral nature" and affected all the three parties. "If we have a problem, then I tell the Jordanians, we sit down and negotiate it," he said. Similarly, Israel will sit down with the Palestinians separately as well as together with Jordan to sort out the problems, he added.

Mr. Peres' comments followed statements by Palestinian officials that Israel was impeding the implementation of some of the accords that the PNA has signed with Israel.

Israeli-imposed restraints on Palestinian freedom of imports from Jordan are seen to limit the scope of Jordanian exports to the Palestinian territories. As a result, Jordan and the PNA had to put off the signing of their agreement until early May.

Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abul Ragheb said last week that PNA Economy Minister Ahmad Qouriea had told him that the PNA and Israel had managed to settle some of the problems and that the Palestinians hoped to resolve the rest in time for the signing of the Jordan-PNA accord in May.

The new rules have been under consideration for several years as there have been complaints about trading in fake gold.

Under such laws, all imported gold and previous stones have to be tested by the municipality before they are stamped and numbered. Gold also must be marked with a falcon, silver with a fort and platinum with a palm tree.

Imported gold stamped by foreign governments would be accepted only on a reciprocal treatment while plated items should show the percentage of all their components, according to the law issued by the minister, Said Gobash.

Such action, coupled with statements showing the G-7 recognised their responsibility to try to maintain stability in world currency markets, could have prevented or slowed the fall, he said.

"Do I favour a strengthening of coordination among the Seven?" My answer is yes," Mr. Camdessus said.

## IMF chief urges Group of Seven states to get their acts together

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Group of Seven (G-7) industrial countries, notably Japan and the United States, should make greater efforts to coordinate their monetary policy and put their macroeconomic house in order, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said Monday.

Delivering a strong message to the group a day ahead

of a Washington meeting of G-7 finance ministers and central bank governors, he told a news conference the seven countries must cooperate more closely.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief criticised the G-7 for "missing a good opportunity to prevent this quiet unhelpful development and this excessive fall in the dollar" by failing to take

average family income... has gone to the top fifth" of the U.S. population, he asserted.

At the same time, "the bottom 20 per cent has lost 15 per cent of real family income," Mr. Reich told a meeting of the Financial Women's Association of New York.

The resulting disparity, he said, poses "an enormous problem for this country.... If

unaddressed, this can rip our society apart."

Contributing to the disparity is the fundamental change in the U.S. economy — a shift from factory production lines and concentration on domestic targets to high-tech occupations and global competition, Mr. Reich maintained.

In order for Americans to get the education and training necessary to compete in the world economy and raise their standards of living, the government already has begun school-to-work apprenticeship programmes and offers low-cost student loans, he said.

The Clinton administration also proposes streamlining federal job-training programmes, vouchers to be used at community colleges to gain

skills and tax deductions to pay for education and training.

But, Mr. Reich said, "the government cannot do it alone. The private sector has got to take the lead."

He suggested that

businesses train their work-

ers, share profits with em-

ployees, rely on attrition

when downsizing and work

with community schools,

## Reich urges U.S. business to help close income gap

WASHINGTON (AP) — Labour Secretary Robert Reich is urging private business to help correct the widening income gap between rich and poor, saying the disparity threatens to "rip our society apart."

Mr. Reich said that most Americans shared equally in income growth from 1950 to 1978. Since then, however, "almost all the increase in

average family income... has gone to the top fifth" of the U.S. population, he asserted.

At the same time, "the bottom 20 per cent has lost 15 per cent of real family income," Mr. Reich told a meeting of the Financial Women's Association of New York.

The resulting disparity, he said, poses "an enormous problem for this country.... If

## Iraq bans private trading of grain harvests

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's government, gearing up for another year of food self-reliance under crippling U.N. trade sanctions, is enforcing a strict state trading monopoly on all grains grown in the country.

"The marketing of wheat, barley, rice, maize and sunflower seeds shall be confined to the state at prices determined by it," said a decree issued by the Revolutionary Command Council over the weekend and carried by state-run newspapers Monday.

Since the United Nations imposed sanctions on Iraq in 1990 after it invaded Kuwait,

home-grown harvests have assumed vital importance in feeding the country's 18 million people.

Large quantities of Iraqi-grown grain slipped onto the black market last year despite a government ban and threats of severe punishment, including amputation for offending farmers.

But this year, the government will both offer farmers much higher prices for selling grain into the state system, and tighten monitoring to make sure that they do.

According to new rules, government committees set production quotas for Iraqi farmers, based on the areas

they are cultivating. The farmers must then ship their full quotas to state silos.

A farmer could be jailed for three years and fined heavily for shipping less than half his quota while harvest collectors can punish farmers for failing to hand over even one per cent of their predetermined quota.

Local monitoring committees all over the country will check how much grain is entering state silos.

Both the government and private sector traders import some basic commodities through Jordan. But Baghdad's apparent rejection of a

new U.N. offer to sell some oil to buy humanitarian supplies means Iraqi harvests are again critical.

United Nations experts would not give any forecasts for this year's harvest. Iraq has not disclosed crop yields since the sanctions were imposed.

Grain and other staples go into a state rationing system which offers about half a person's needs of flour, rice, cooking oil, tea and sugar, at subsidised prices or free.

Iraqis make up the rest by buying on the much more expensive spot market.

Harvesting has already started in the south but Iraqi

and U.N. officials say basic shortages of working machinery, insecticides and seed hamper yields, despite good weather conditions this year.

As an incentive to farmers to shun the black market, the government this month boosted prices offered for wheat and barley by up to three times. A tonne of good wheat now fetches 105,000 dinars (about \$88 on the black market) at state silos.

Under the new monitoring system, anyone reporting a violating farmer will get a reward worth half the commercial price of the amount harvested collectors uncover.

## UAE tightens up gold trade

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE), one of the biggest gold markets in the world, has tightened control on trading in the yellow metal to end manipulation and dealing in fake items.

The economy and commerce ministry said new regulations streamlining trade in gold and other precious metals had gone into effect last week and they would contribute to boosting demand in the local market, according to local newspapers.

The new rules have been under consideration for several years as there have been complaints about trading in fake gold.

Under such laws, all imported gold and previous stones have to be tested by the municipality before they are stamped and numbered. Gold also must be marked with a falcon, silver with a fort and platinum with a palm tree.

Imported gold stamped by foreign governments would be accepted only on a reciprocal treatment while plated items should show the percentage of all their components, according to the law issued by the minister, Said Gobash.

## IMF predicts strong world economic growth, slowdown in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world's seven largest economies meet in Washington Tuesday to prepare for spring meetings of the 179 member IMF and the World Bank. The seven are the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus took the unusual step last week of publicly urging that America's central bank, the Federal Reserve, boost interest rates as a way of defending the dollar even though President Clinton's administration is worried that tighter money could transform economic slowdown into outright recession.

The IMF used Sunday's release of its economic forecast to elaborate on Mr. Camdessus' arguments. It said higher U.S. interest rates would be especially appropriate given that both Germany and Japan have reduced their rates in the past two weeks.

Higher U.S. interest rates in relation to Japan and Germany could serve to bolster the U.S. currency because dollar-denominated investments would then offer investors more return.

Mr. Mussel told reporters that the IMF was assuming that the Federal Reserve over the course of this year would increase rates by another one-half percentage points on top of the three percentage points over the past year.

Financial markets, however,

were not optimistic that the Group of Seven meeting Tuesday would be able to produce a convincing rescue plan for the dollar given America's reluctance about higher interest rates.

In its latest survey of global economic conditions, the IMF predicted that economic recovery would gather steam in most of the world, but it forecast a significant slowdown in the United States this year and next.

The U.S. economic growth, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP), was projected to rise by only 3.2 per cent this year and drop to a slower rate of 1.9 per cent in 1996.

While such a slow pace would normally raise recession worries, IMF chief economist Michael Mussel put the chances of a U.S. downturn only in the "modest" range, at around 22 per cent.

But the IMF did concede there were significant risks to its forecast, stemming mainly from fears that Mexico's economic crisis could spill over to other countries and that the dollar would continue to plunge. It has dropped to record lows against both the Japanese yen and the German mark.

The dollar was expected to be the chief topic when finance ministers and central bank presidents of the

G-7 met in Washington.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY APRIL 25, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You can gain the information you need from others today if you show that you must improve your position in life.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Add a little inspiration to the plans you have made and try some new methods for best results of a new project for your success.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) One who is cognizant of your ambitions and outlook can give you a plan today which can bring you far greater success.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Take time for entertainment with a fellow associate and come to a fair better understanding. Spend the evening at home with your loved ones.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Handle those duties at home which will please your family and make conditions there more ideal. Enjoy recreations with close friends and loved ones tonight.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Study desk work well and then handle it very efficiently and gain right benefits today.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Concentrate on finances and family so that you can improve your position in life. Plan improvements on your home and property.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You feel that nothing is going fast enough today, so get busy improving your routines and things fast in place.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Get your tasks at home completed more efficiently and you can command greater benefits later today.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Listening to the advice of a good friend is wise since you can gain your personal wishes more easily. Seek out the advice of friends today.

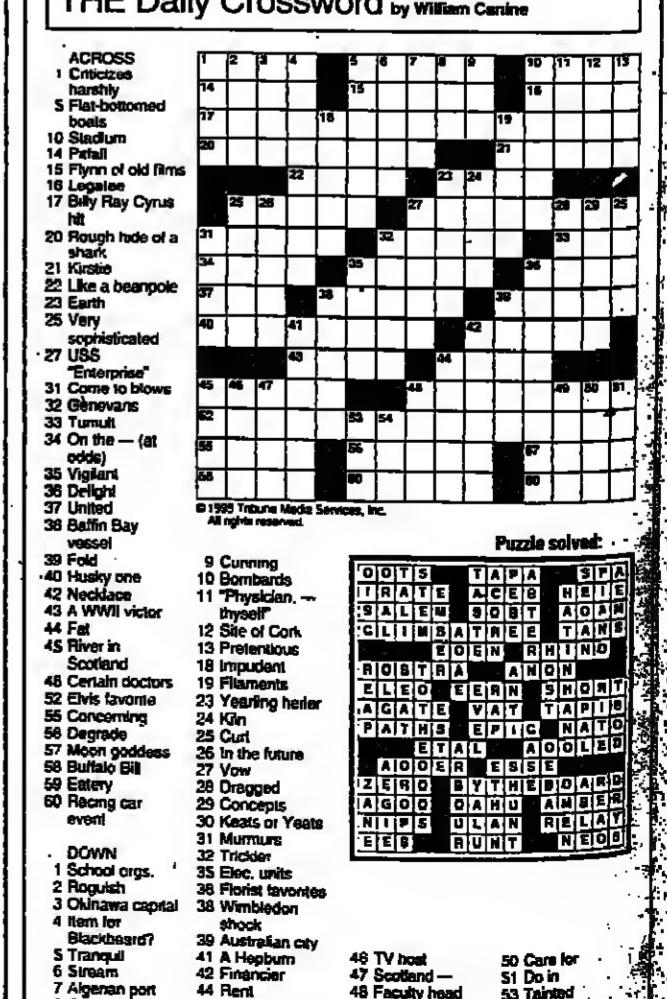
**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) A dynamic bigwig can give you the right steer so that you can gain your ambitions, if you contact early him or her today.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Contacting an older individual out-of-town can gain you the advice you need today in order to gain some personal longing.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

### THE Daily Crossword

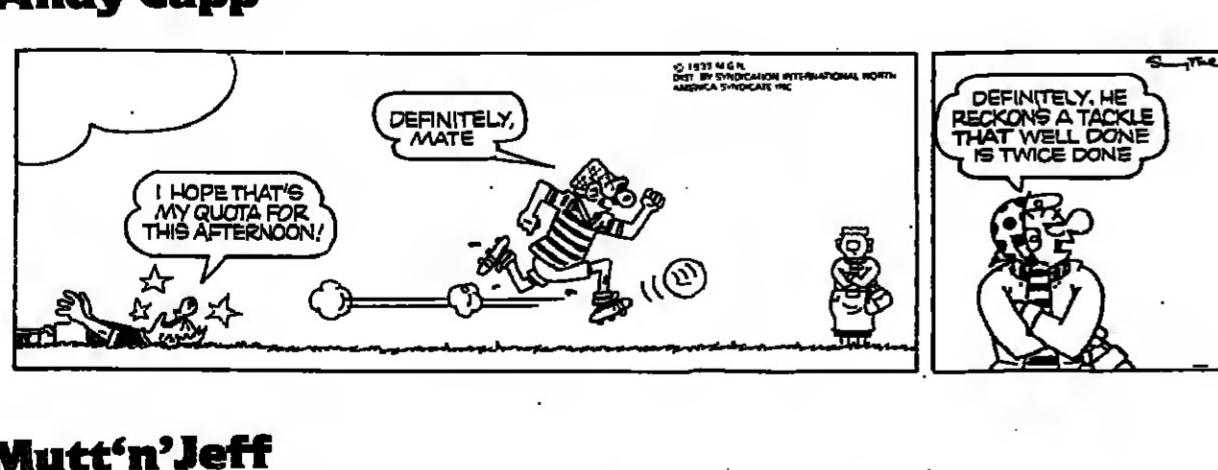
by William Canine



## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n Jeff



**Business  
Daily  
Beat**  
A review  
of economic news  
from the Arabic press

## Sheraton returns to Amman

\*\* AL DAWLIYAH for Industrial, Trade and Tourism Investments, a JD 14 million public shareholding company, has signed an agreement with the Sheraton International group to manage the Amman Sheraton hotel which will be set up by the Al Dawliyah for Hotels and Malls (ADHM) which is under establishment with a JD 25 million capital. ADHM, a sister company to the Al Dawliyah for Industrial, Trade and Tourism Investments, will be floating JD 6 million for public subscription since 75 per cent of the capital, or JD 18 million, has been paid for by the founders. Amman Sheraton Hotel, which will be a five-star hotel with 300 rooms/suites, is the first project for the two aforementioned companies and will be followed by other projects such as commercial complexes and three-star hotels in Shmeisani (Amman), Aqaba, Petra and Dead Sea area. According to the agreement, the Amman Sheraton Hotel to be situated on the Fifth Circle, should be completed after 26 months. There are 84 hotels in Amman with a capacity of 5,000 beds but only five hotels have a five-star classification (Al Dustour).

\*\* THE JORDANIAN dinar is now a free convertible currency in international trade transactions without any change to its exchange value. The International Monetary Fund has approved Jordan's acceptance of article 8 of the fund's agreement and, as such, the Jordanian dinar is freely convertible for current commercial transactions (Al Ra'i).

\*\* THE GENERAL assembly of the Arab Jordan Investment Bank approved raising the bank's capital to JD 20 million and the distribution of dividends at a rate of 12 per cent (Al Ra'i).

\*\* LEBANESE COMPANIES have expressed their desire to widen their purchases of Jordanian medicines. Lebanon imports drugs through 339 foreign companies only one of which is Jordanian (Al Dustour).

\*\* THE NUMBER of companies which applied for investments on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea has risen to 97 Jordanian, Arab and foreign companies. Among the interested parties were companies from the U.S., Indonesia, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, France, Israel, Romania, Canada, Britain and South Korea. Most of the applications were for investments in hotels, touristic villages and spa hotels. Meanwhile, the rural development department at the Jordan Valley Authority is organizing field trips every Saturday for the investors who have submitted investment requests and those who want to make site visits before submitting their applications (Al Ra'i).

\*\* ECONOMIST AND former Minister Bassam Al Saket said in a lecture that becoming a member of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade, now the World Trade Organization (WTO), entails lifting subsidies on the agricultural sector and opening the commercial sector to strong foreign competition especially in the area of government contracts. He pointed out that the WTO bans subsidising agricultural products and dumping policies. Furthermore, the WTO requires that every member country has to submit all its customs-related documents and legislations and, as such, all the figures appearing in the documents would be considered as fixed ceilings. Dr. Saket said that within the WTO rules, a currency's exchange rate will be according to the volume of trade meaning that the balance of payments will determine the exchange rate and not the state (Al Aswag).

## Lloyd's of London says doom reports are unfounded

LONDON (R) — The Lloyd's of London insurance market, facing the biggest cash crisis in its 308-year history, admitted Monday that its losses were huge but denied reports that it was on the brink of collapse.

"The apocalypsis (sic) is unfolding and the question of Lloyd's ceasing to trade is not on the cards," Matt Huber, Lloyd's communications manager, told BBC Radio.

"This institution has seen the biggest loss of any institution in recent years and is now trading very profitably indeed and will continue to do so," he added.

Lloyd's staunch defence of its future followed doomsday reports of £9 billion (\$14.4 billion) losses it has accumulated over five years and a lack of funds to cover them.

Newspapers claimed that many of the 31,000 "names" — individuals who pledged unlimited liability to finance the underwriting syndicates

Peter Middleton, chief executive of Lloyd's, said Fri-

day that its council was conducting a wide-ranging review of its operations.

"Lloyd's is seeking to produce a settlement of all outstanding litigation, to bring finality to the Lloyd's affairs of many members and to secure a profitable future," he said.

The council, which meets on the first Monday of every month, has also called a session for Tuesday but a Lloyd's spokesman said it has nothing to do with the latest reports which "have been blown completely out of proportion."

Newspapers also claimed that Lloyd's cash worries are compounded by the financial problems of other insurance companies, or reinsurers, which owe them money and the dwindling amounts in Lloyd's central fund, an emergency account.

They have predicted that if the situation is not resolved soon Lloyd's may not pass its

annual solvency test, administered by the Department of Trade and Industry, which it must do to continue trading.

"At present we are confident we can find solutions to the problems and we are examining everything the society does to find a way forward," Mr. Huber added. "If there is going to be an offer or offers of settlement to the membership they may be forthcoming by the end of May."

Much of the catastrophic losses Lloyd's has incurred have resulted from disasters such as the Piper Alpha oil rig explosion in the North Sea and the huge Exxon Valdez oil leak off the coast of Alaska and asbestos and pollution-related claims in the United States.

Lloyd's, which reports its results three years in arrears, is expected to announce more news when it reveals figures for 1992 next month.

ways and the growing aviation sector, the China Daily said.

New, high-quality passenger trains would be introduced gradually to improve the quality of service on some long-distance and tourist routes, while the proportion of sleeper cars on trains between popular destinations would be raised to 25 per cent this year from 23.1 per cent in 1993.

Demand for sleeper tickets far outstrips supply on most long-distance routes.

Services that stop at every station would be cut back because they waste capacity and personnel, the China Daily said.

Cheap tickets make non-

express trains, though often dirty and overloaded, the main way to travel long-distance for many rural Chinese who cannot afford express surcharges or bus prices.

Railway cargo handling will be reformed to improve safety and boost efficiency, the newspaper said.

Railways carry 90 million tonnes of inflammable, explosive or poisonous goods every year, it said.

The reforms are part of an ongoing campaign to modernise the rail network. Beijing announced in January that it would this year begin to break-up the centralised system into many separate companies.

### China railways lost more than \$400m in '94

BELTING (R) — China's huge, inefficient railway network lost more than 3.4 billion yuan (\$400 million) in 1994 because of overly rigid management, and could lose even more this year, the China Daily has said.

Beijing will launch reforms of its rail network, which carried more than a billion passengers in 1994, to make it more market-oriented, the newspaper quoted minister of

transportation, Mr. Han Zhuhui as saying.

Rigid and highly controlled management unable to change with the times caused the deficit, Mr. Han said.

The network faced even bigger losses in 1995, he said.

Trains, which still carry 53

per cent of China's travellers and 70 per cent of its freight, have been losing market share to increased competition from highways, water-

ways and the growing aviation sector, the China Daily said.

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The reforms are part of an ongoing campaign to modernise the rail network.

## Jordan invited to take part in maintaining security at Atlanta Olympics

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Not only will the cream of Jordanian athletes participate in the Atlanta Olympics next year, but a number of Jordanian officers might also have the chance to take part in maintaining security at the Olympic village.

Jordan Olympic Committee (IOC) Chairman Dr. Mouaffaq Al Fawwaz told the Jordan Times that

the Ministry of Interior had received the request from the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) and that Jordanian officials were considering the request for 12-20 officers.

"It is a great honour for Jordanian personnel to be a part of the Olympics. They will undoubtedly benefit from this experience," said Dr. Fawwaz. "It is the first time a host country makes this request."

Recent reports said

Olympic security training exercises were already being held in Atlanta and that an intricate security system was being placed to ensure safety.

Access to training centres, athlete dormitories and competition venues will be controlled with a radio frequency system that will read information encoded on accreditation badges.

Security officials will be able to use the system to track the movements of any

person wearing an Olympic credential.

### IOC begins preparations

Meanwhile, Dr. Fawwaz said the IOC's technical committee had already begun preparations for the July 19-Aug. 4 centennial Olympics in which only six Jordanian athletes will be representing the Kingdom as set by the International Olympic Committee.

"We have addressed all sports federations to name outstanding athletes so that

the IOC can make its choice and athletes begin training as soon as possible."

Dr. Fawwaz explained that team sports require qualification through their respective championships, while sports relying on individual records are easier for countries like Jordan as an athlete must have minimal requirements (like at least an eight place finish in a qualifying championship).

## Barkley leads Suns into NBA playoffs; Magic, Bulls, Rockets, Cavs lose

By the Associated Press

CHARLES BARKLEY led Phoenix into the playoffs with their eighth win in nine games as the Suns beat the Seattle SuperSonics 105-100.

Barkley played only the first three quarters, finishing with 23 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists in 30 minutes. The Pacific Division champions didn't need any more from him as they led by as many as 21 points.

Seattle, which had won 12 of 15 before finishing in a two-game skid, finished 1-4 against Phoenix this season.

Wesley Person had 17 points for the Suns, hitting five of their 13 3-pointers, and Kevin Johnson had 16. A.C. Green had 15 points and 15 rebounds.

Detlef Schrempf scored 18 points for Seattle, Gary Payton had 17 and Sam Perkins 16.

Spurs 97, Timberwolves 91: In Minneapolis, San Antonio rolled into the playoffs with their sixth straight victory and a league-high 62 wins.

Already guaranteed the best record in franchise history and the top seed in the Western Conference, the Spurs rested David Robinson most of the game. Chuck Person came off the bench to

score 20 points against his former team.

The Wolves (21-61), who were led by Isaiah Rider's 25 points, are the first team in NBA history to lose 60 or more games four seasons in a row and finished 41 games behind San Antonio in the Midwest Division.

Dennis Rodman, the league's rebounding champion for the fourth year in a row, had 10 points and 16 rebounds for the Spurs.

Pacers 103, Hawks 87: In Indianapolis, Sam Mitchell scored six straight points in a crucial third-quarter spurt as Indiana defeated Atlanta in a playoff preview.

Reggie Miller had 22 points to lead an Indiana offense that had five players in double figures.

Atlanta, which trailed as many as 19 in the first half, was led by Mookie Blaylock's 19 points. The Hawks tied the game 66-66 on a 3-pointer by Blaylock with 4:13 left in the third quarter. Mitchell, who had 10 of his 14 points in the third quarter, then pnt the Pacers ahead to stay with 3:54 left to start a 12-4 run and Indiana led 82-71 after three quarters.

Hornets 97, Cavaliers 72: In Charlotte, North Carolina, Darrin Hancock scored nine points in leading Charlotte's 26-0 third-quarter run and

the Hornets won 50 games for the first time in their seven-year history.

Hancock, who had 13 points, finished the quarter with a length-of-the-court drive and layup to give Charlotte a 75-52 lead.

Alonzo Mourning had 26 points to lead six Charlotte players in double figures.

Bobby Phills scored 11 points in the first quarter and finished with 13 to lead Cleveland.

Bucks 104, Bulls 100: In Milwaukee, Glenn Robinson scored 36 points to overcome a 33-point performance by Michael Jordan as the Bucks survived a fourth-quarter Chicago comeback.

Eric Murdock's two free throws with 9.1 seconds remaining sealed the victory, which snapped the Bulls' six-game winning streak.

The Bucks led 90-81 going into the fourth quarter, then held on as the Bulls chipped away, closing within 98-95 with 5:19 left. Robinson hit a field goal to stop the charge.

Scottie Pippen added 15 points for the Bulls.

Knicks 113, Magic 99: New York hit 12 3-pointers, including four-in-a-row by Hubert Davis in the fourth quarter, as the Knicks sent the Magic into the playoffs with a seven-game road losing streak.

Hawks 97, Cavaliers 72: In Charlotte, North Carolina, Darrin Hancock scored nine points in leading Charlotte's 26-0 third-quarter run and

With starters Patrick Ewing and Derek Harper sitting out a second straight game, the Knicks turned to their outside game, stretching a six-point lead to 98-85 with 8:06 left when Davis hit four treys in a 2:15 span.

John Starks had five 3-pointers and 26 points, and Charles Smith scored a season-high 29 for the Knicks.

Shaquille O'Neal, who finished with 13 points in 27 minutes, was in foul trouble in the second half, so the Magic also went to the perimeter and Dennis Scott hit five 3-pointers, scoring a season-high 38.

Bullets 106, 76ers 90: Landover, Maryland, Mitchell Butler tied a career-high with 26 points and Gheorghe Muresan had 15 points and 11 rebounds as the Bullets registered their moist lopsided victory of the season and avoided tying a franchise record with their 62nd loss of the season.

Sharon Wright scored 22 points for the 76ers, who lost eight of their final 12 games. Philadelphia got 21 points from Dana Barros and 17 from Shawn Bradley.

Rice, who was awarded his team's MVP award at half-time, hurt Detroit with his outside shooting, scoring 21 second-half points. It was the 18th time this season rice had scored more than 30 points in a game.

Nets 102, Celtics 99: East Rutherford, New Jersey, Chris Morris converted a three-point play off an alley-oop with 5.9 seconds to play to lift the New Jersey Nets over Boston, sending the Celts into the playoffs with a three-game losing streak.

Boston opens a best-of-5 first round playoff series with Orlando on Friday. The Magic won three of five regular-season meetings with the Celts.

Armon Gilliam led the nets with 28 points and 14 rebounds. Rick Mahorn had 17 points and 11 rebounds and Kenny Anderson added 16 as the Nets, who lost 15 of their last 19, finished the season with a two-game winning streak.

Sherman Douglas had 25 points and 11 assists for Boston, while Dee Brown added 21.

Heat 129, Pistons 105: In Miami, Glen Rice scored 32 points and Kevin Gamble came off the bench to add a season-high 23 as the Miami Heat beat the Detroit Pistons, putting an end to a disappointing season for both teams.

Rice, who was awarded his team's MVP award at half-time, hurt Detroit with his outside shooting, scoring 21 second-half points. It was the 18th time this season rice had scored more than 30 points in a game.

## African Nations' Cup

### Ghana qualify for finals

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Anthony Yeboah, the English-based Ghanaian striker, steered his country to a place in the African Nations Cup finals with the only goal of the match against Niger on Sunday.

The Leeds United forward, playing his first game for Ghana in more than a year, found the net after 21 minutes.

Ghana are the first team to progress from the qualifiers to the finals of the tournament in South Africa next year after a weekend of intense activity in five of the groups.

The Black Stars are likely to be joined from Group three by fellow West Africans Sierra Leone, who recorded an upset 2-0 win over Congo in Brazzaville, including a goal from 15-year-old striker Mohamed Kallon.

Sierra Leone now need just to beat Niger at home in June to qualify for their second successive finals.

Egypt, Liberia and Zaire also strengthened their claims for a place in the 16-team tournament next January but there were setbacks for Zimbabwe and Togo.

Togo beat Tanzania 2-1 in Dar-Es-Salaam on Saturday to remain on top Group Four while Liberia kept up their unbeaten record with a 1-0 defeat of Tunisia in Monrovia.

Zaire captain Kabeya Mukanya refused to be substituted in the second-half of the Group One match against Cameroon before inspiring his team to a 2-1 win.

The Belgian-based midfielder waved aside his coach's instructions to set up two goals for Zaire at the New Kamanyola Stadium in Kinshasa after Cameroon had taken a 68th minute lead through George Mouyene.

Zaire's goals were scored by Mbote Ndinga and Kona Ngole, they leave Cameroon needing to win their remaining three matches to qualify.

Group leaders Zimbabwe also suffered a setback with a disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Malawi in Harare. Coventry City's Peter Ndlovu gave Zimbabwe the lead with a 40th minute penalty but

Hendrix Bada equalised soon after half-time.

Togo's hopes of qualifying from Group Two were shattered by a 5-1 defeat by Senegal in Dakar.

Stand-in captain Mousa Ndaw and midfielder Mamoudou Diallo got two each for the home team after Togo took an early lead. But neither player made use of a last-minute penalty to complete a hattrick, allowing Amara Traore to score the fifth.

The struggle for the top two places in Group Six continued with victories for Angola, Mali and Mozambique.

Two goals by Sporting Lisbon striker Chiquinho Conde helped Mozambique to a 3-0 win in Botswana and they share top spot with Angola, who beat group leaders Guinea by the same scoreline in Luanda.

Mali are one point behind after a 2-0 home win over Namibia in Bamako.

The Group Four game between Sudan and Algeria in Omdurman was postponed after the match officials failed to appear.

The top two finishers in each of the seven groups progress to the finals being staged from Jan. 13 to Feb. 3 next year. Hosts South Africa and holders Nigeria qualify automatically.

## Apartment For Rent

Fully luxuriously furnished apt., 140 m<sup>2</sup>  
2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a large terrace and a beautiful view in Al Rabia Area.

Preferably diplomats with no kids and pets.

## ROOM FOR SALE

Roof (450 m<sup>2</sup>) - Apt. 220 m<sup>2</sup>

consists of : three bedrooms, salon dining room, sitting room, fully equipped kitchen and very luxurious furniture.

For sale furnished or unfurnished.

Please call for appointments  
Tel. 864799 / 829260  
from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm

## WANTED

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities invites international and local production companies to submit proposals to develop a video film package for marketing Jordan. Interested companies should contact the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities' Third Circle opposite the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and are requested to present the following certificates in order to obtain tender document, a valid professional licence, a certificate from the Chamber of Commerce, a copy of the commercial registry certificate.

1. A contract No.: 3/95  
2. Cost of tender document: JD 10 (non-refundable).  
3. Deadline for purchasing document 12:30 p.m. on 27/4/1995.  
4. Deadline for submitting proposals 11:00 a.m. on 15/5/1995.

5. Interested parties should contact the accountant section at the Ministry of Tourism to purchase tender document.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH

### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

#J10#K10 #K11#Q11#Q12

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass 1

Pass 1 Pass Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

#S10#K10#Q10#Q11#Q12

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass 1

Pass 1 Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

#S10#K10#Q10#Q11#Q12

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass 1

Pass 1 Pass Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

#K10#Q10#Q11#Q12

The bidding has proceeded:

South North East West

Pass Pass Pass 1

Pass 1 Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

#K10#Q10#Q11#Q12

The bidding has proceeded:

South North East West

Pass Pass Pass 1

Pass 1 Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

#Q10#K10#Q11#Q12

The bidding has proceeded:

South North East West

Pass Pass Pass 1

Pass 1 Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

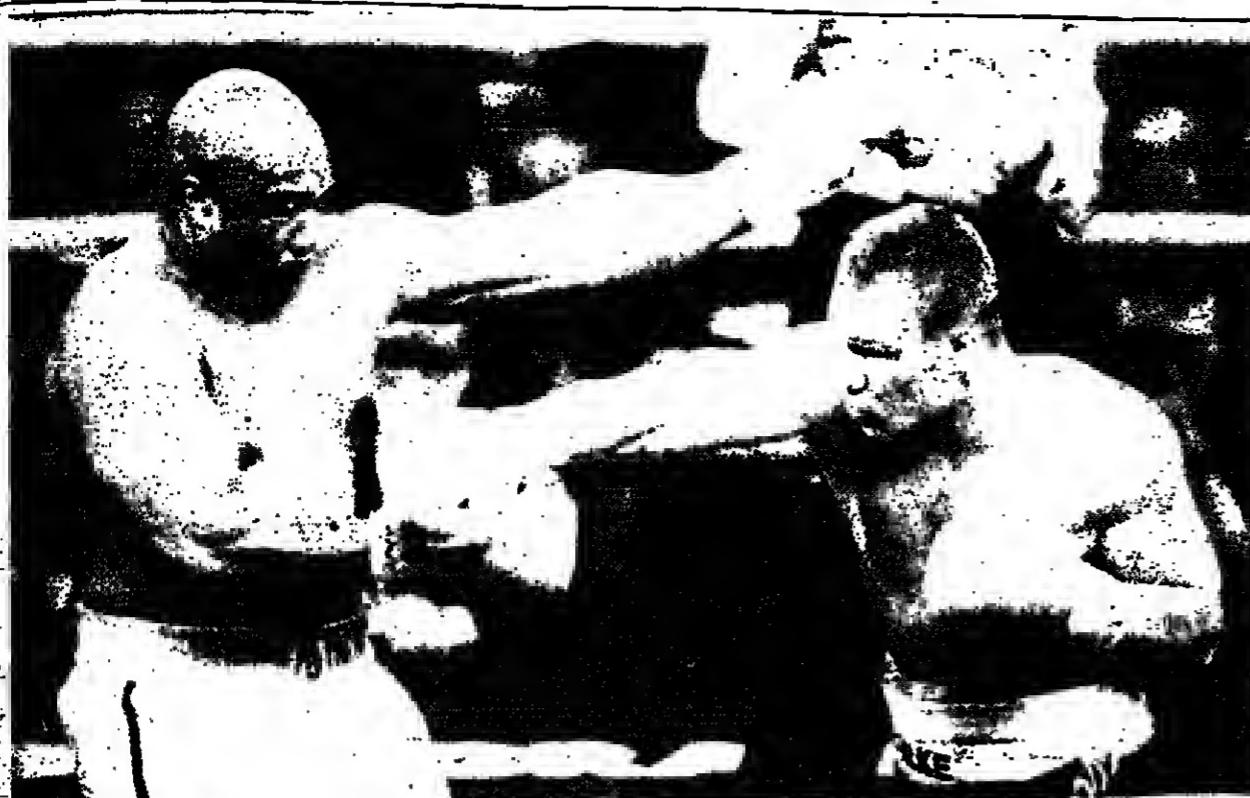
Q.

# Sports

**Lations' Cup**  
**ility for final**

we are need just  
er at home in second  
for their second  
finals  
and Zaire  
handed their claims  
in the 16-team  
next January but  
setbacks for Zam  
Tanzania 2-1 in  
a top Group Four  
we kept up their  
aced with a 1-1  
in Mombasa.  
captain Kafue  
stated to be sur  
the second-half of  
the match against  
before inspiring  
a 2-1 win  
an-based midfield  
made his coach's  
to set up a  
one at the New  
Stadium in  
after Cameroon  
thinks minute-long  
beginning  
he were scored  
dellings and Kond  
leave Cameroon  
their remain  
to qualify  
iders Zimbabwe  
a setback with a  
1-1 draw at  
home in Marake  
by Peter Ndlovu  
the lead with  
penalty but

Hendrix Bada equalled  
Togo's hopes of a  
Group Two after  
Senegal in Dakar.  
Stand-in captain  
Ndaw and substitute  
dou Diallo got two  
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after a 2-0 loss to  
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The group for  
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to appear.  
The top two for  
each of the two  
progress to the next  
stage from Jan 11  
Netherlands, Holland  
and holder Hong Kong  
automatically.



IBF heavyweight champion George Foreman of the U.S. (left) pulls back after taking a right from challenger Axel Schulz of Germany in their title bout at the MGM Grand

Garden in Las Vegas. Foreman held on to the title on a majority decision (AFP photo)

## Jordan Open begins

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first round of the 1995 Jordan Open Tennis Championship begins at Al Hussein Youth City Tuesday with over 58 players taking part.

The Kingdom's top players will be competing, led by 1993 champion and current top-ranked player Imad Abu Hamda who led Jordan's team in the just-concluded Davis Cup.

Last year's champion, Laith Al Azzouni, has opted not to compete as he is busy with his Tawjhi studies. Also surprisingly missing the competition will be his brother Faris, another Davis Cup player.

A host of promising younger participants will be fighting for the title including Tharwat Al Qaisi, Iyad bin Al Hadid, Khalid Nafa'i and Ihab Shehab. Fifteen Under-12 players will also be playing in a competition of their own.

National Team coach Yousef Oreibi pointed out that the competition will be a good chance to see the competitive level of the players and choose a new national team in preparation for upcoming competitions.

"We will seek to name a new national team, that will train throughout the year and be ready for any competition," Oreibi said.

## Spain breezes past Maleeva sisters

NEW YORK (AP) — The Fed Cup's format may have changed. The results haven't.

In Sofia, the 23-year-old Martinez needed 90 minutes to defeat the youngest of the three tennis-playing Maleeva sisters.

After an easy first set, Martinez quickly seized a 3-0 lead in the second set. The struggle wasn't over yet and the ninth-ranked Magdalena Maleeva squeezed the difference to 5-4, but lost concentration and the last game to Martinez.

Whether a best-of-three, one-week tournament or a best-of-five event staged at venues all over the world throughout the year like the Davis Cup, the defending champions are dominant.

Sanchez Vicario, ranked No. 2, used her powerful ground strokes to beat 26-year-old Katerina Maleeva 6-3, 6-3 and then Martinez routed Katerina's 20-year-old sister Magdalena 6-2, 6-4.

The new format, initiated this year under the named shortened form its predecessor — the Federation Cup, teams play singles on the first day and then reverse singles and doubles on the second day.

While some players have expressed a desire to play more of a Davis Cup-like schedule with the doubles in the middle, all of the singles are played first to essentially favour the European nations, which concentrate on singles.

The top group, like the Davis Cup, is called the World Group, with Group One a second tier.

In other matches, in the World Group, South Africa and France were tied 2-2 with the doubles remaining to be played; and Germany led Japan 2-0. United States was at home against Austria.

In Group One, Canada took a 2-0 lead over Italy, the Dutch led Sweden 2-0, Argentina and Indonesia split

1-1, and Australia was even with Slovakia 1-1.

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### Fed Cup

Germany 2, Japan 0: At Freiburg, Germany, Anke Huber beat Kyoko Nagatsuka 6-0, 5-7, 6-4 to give Germany the lead, and Sabine Hack followed with a 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) victory over Manuela Endo. Both teams were without their top players. Germany's Steffi Graf, the No. 1 in the world, skipped the match to attend her brother's wedding, while Japan's Kimiko Date pulled out of the singles for unspecified "health reasons."

France 2, South Africa 2: At Metz, France, Amanda Coetzer upset Mary Pierce, 6-4, 6-3 in the first match of the day to give South Africa a 2-1 lead. But France's Julie Halarad fought back to level the score by beating Joanne Kruger, 6-4, 7-5.

It was Coetzer's second singles win. She beat Halarad, 6-2, 6-4.

In the doubles, Halarad and Nathalie Tauziat faced Coetzer and Elma Reinach.

Group One:

Australia 1, Slovakia 1: At Perth, Australia, Nicole Bradike rallied to defeat Radka Zrubakova in 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 to give Australia the split

Indonesia 1, Argentina 1: At Jakarta, Indonesia, Gabriela Sabatini started Argentina off with a victory but Yauko Basuki upset 44th-ranked Florencia Labat to even the score. Sabatini took 97 minutes to outlast Romana Tedjakusuma 7-5, 6-2, after falling behind. Basuki likewise took 1 1/2 hours to beat Labat 7-5, 6-4.

Netherlands 2, Sweden 0: At Västerås, Sweden, Kristie Boogert rallied from a second-set loss to beat Asa Carlsson, 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, and Miriam Ormans beat Maria Strandlund 6-3, 6-1 to give the Netherlands the first-day lead. Carlsson, at 69th the highest ranked Swede in the women's rankings, is coming off a loss to Steffi Graf in the championship match of last week's Houston WTC.

Canada 2, Italy 0: At Ancona, Italy, Patricia Hy-Boulais took over three hours to beat Silvia Farina, 3-6, 7-6, 8-6, to complete the first-day sweep before a lively crowd.

Earlier, Rene Simpsoo-

Alter, No. 220 in the world, beat Italy's top ranked woman player, Sandra Cecchini, 6-4, 6-3. Cecchini is 32nd overall.

## World Youth Soccer Championship

### Portugal take on Brazil, Argentina meet Spain in semifinals today

DOHA (Agencies) — Portugal will play Brazil and Argentina will meet Spain in two all-Latin semifinals in the World Youth Championship on Tuesday.

In the two remaining quarterfinals played on Sunday Portugal beat Australia 2-1 in sudden-death extra-time and Argentina beat Camerons 2-0.

Earlier on Sunday Spain beat Russia 4-1 while Brazil came back from a goal down to beat Japan 2-1.

Portugal clinched their victory over Australia when man of the match Agostinho Ribeiro was sent clear by Dani Carvalho to score after nine minutes of the extra period.

Ribeiro checked back inside a defender and slotted the ball under the body of Australia goalkeeper Clint Bolton.

Argentina reached the last four with a 2-0 win over favourites Camerons, who had been strongly tipped to win the title.

Camerons were forced

into making long-range shots and restricted to an unfamiliar counter-attacking game. When they did get a shot on target they were thwarted by Argentinian goalkeeper Joaquin Igrioyta.

Argentina went ahead when nippy striker Guerrero scored after 37 minutes when Ariel Ibagaza slipped the ball through a wide gap in the Camerons defence.

The second came when Walter Coyote dribbled his way into the penalty area and glided past keeper Hameni Njeukam.

FIFA assured of clean Youth Cup in 1997

The Foothall Association of Malaysia has assured soccer's ruling body that it will do its best to eradicate match-fixing and bribery before hosting the World Youth Cup in 1997, a newspaper reported Saturday.

The tournament, now being held in Doha, Qatar,

was hit by scandal this week when three Malaysians were arrested for attempting to bribe soccer players to fix results predetermined by bookies.

The Malaysians are to be deported along with a Thai and an Indonesian who also were arrested at the same time.

FAM deputy president Abdullah Ahmad Shah assured FIFA that it would seek the help of the Asian Football Confederation to help stamp out bookies, the Star newspaper said.

Bribery and match fixing are common in Malaysia. Earlier this week 57 players and an assistant coach were banned from soccer worldwide for periods ranging from one to four years after they confessed to rigging the scores of games.

Another 22 players and coaches have been banned to live in remote areas and can't move about without police permit.

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### New scent from Elizabeth Arden

MR. RAMI ABU Shaqra held a press conference to announce the new scent from Elizabeth Arden: True Love.

According to Mr. Abu Shaqra, the person who discovered it had observed that two different roses growing next to each other affect each other in form and essence, thus creating some kind of unity and a new character and a new scent which he chose to call True Love.

True Love is really the essence of the fragrance of more than one rose blended together into one.

The apex of this scent blends together those wonderful fragrances of the lily of the valley and the white cloud rose, which together produce a pleasant feeling for the youth at the heart of the new scent one can feel. The effects of jasmine, lotus, lily of the valley and the legendary narcissus, and as background, one is influenced by the fragrance of sandal wood, orchid grass and musk.

### Finance Director

#### The Opportunity

In order to strengthen the ability of Jordan's telecommunications sector to deliver a top quality range of services to the people and businesses of Jordan, a programme of reconstruction of the sector is currently in progress. The major part of this programme is the commercialisation of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC).

#### The Vacancy

We are seeking candidates for the post of Finance Director in TCC. The post reports to the Director General and carries full responsibility for all financial & commercial accounting activities including aggressive treasury management and the development of effective budgeting techniques.

#### You, the Candidate

You must be educated to degree standard and hold a recognised professional accounting qualification. You must be accustomed to managing the full range of financial analysis and reporting activities, and will have a senior financial post in a large private sector company, preferably in a technological or engineering sector (ideally, though not necessarily, telecommunications). You will understand and be familiar with the specification and implementation of modern computerised accounting systems. Also, you must be accustomed to using desktop computers with spreadsheet and financial modelling software. Fluency in English and Arabic (written and spoken) is essential. Your age is less important to us than your maturity and the quality of your experience.

#### Salary

The salary will be negotiable and reflect the experience and qualifications of the successful applicant.

#### To Apply

You should send a full and up-to-date CV with covering letter (in English) to the address below indicating your strengths in relation to the post as described, and stating your current salary and benefits. If short-listed, you will be invited for interview at the offices of TCC near 3rd Circle. If you are unsuccessful for this post, we may also consider you for other vacancies in TCC, unless you ask us not to do so.

We wish to make an early appointment so you application should arrive by 9 May at the latest.

Director General Telecommunications Corporation  
PO Box 1686 Amman Jordan  
(Finance Director)

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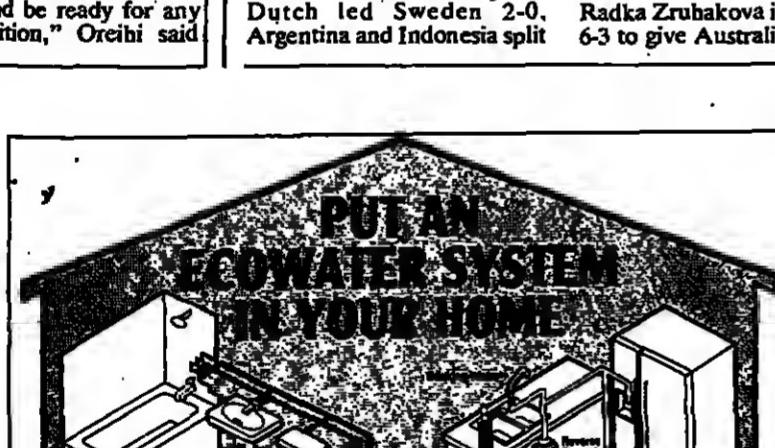
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## Jospin, Chirac move to runoff

**PARIS (Agencies)** — French voters drove the prime minister from the presidential race, supported the far right in record numbers and chose a socialist and conservative to compete in a runoff to become head of state.

The results of Sunday's election upset most predictions.

Jacques Chirac, the conservative mayor of Paris, had been the favourite. Fellow conservative Premier Edouard Balladur was expected to battle socialist Lionel Jospin for second place and a spot on the May 7 runoff ballot.

Instead, Mr. Chirac struggled to a disappointing 20.5 per cent showing, second best behind Mr. Jospin's 23.2 per cent. With all except overseas votes counted, Mr. Balladur came in third with 18.5 per cent and was knocked out of the race.

The five right-of-centre candidates in the nine-person field drew almost 60 per cent of the vote, ensuring that Mr. Chirac will be a solid favourite in the runoff to replace President François Mitterrand, in office since 1981.

Mr. Mitterrand, 78, gave only lukewarm backing to Mr. Jospin, but this may have helped the candidate avoid being seen as simply a continuation of a now-uninspired administration.

"Hope has switched sides," Mr. Jospin told elated supporters at his headquarters.

The outcome could mean the end of Mr. Balladur's political career. He was the heavy favourite until February, but proved an ineffective campaigner and was dogged by dismal figures on unemployment, which grew from 10.5 per cent when he became premier two years ago to 12.6 per cent last December.

Mr. Balladur on Sunday urged his followers to back Mr. Chirac in the second round.

The divided right "can reassemble and go forward together," Mr. Chirac said. "Let's forget our partisan divisions and build a France for everyone."

Far-right candidate Jean-Marie le Pen became a potential kingmaker by finishing a strong fourth with 15 per cent. He said he would wait a

week before advising endorsing one of the runoff candidates.

Mr. Le Pen, leader of the anti-immigrant National Front, surpassed his party's best previous showing of 14.4 per cent in 1988.

"The country is perhaps a little sick," Philippe Douste-Blazy, the pro-Balladur health minister, said of the support for far-right candidates.

In addition to Mr. Le Pen's strong showing, another right-wing nationalist, Philippe de Villiers, won almost five per cent, while communist and Trotskyite candidates together won about 14 per cent.

On paper, a rough 60-40 per cent lead for the right over the left made Mr. Chirac the clear favourite to win the runoff. But analysts, wary of opinion polls which wrongly forecast that Mr. Chirac would easily win the first round, warned that tricky alliances would make the duel a close fight.

"Surveys forecasting a 57-43 per cent lead for Chirac look like nonsense. I believe we are headed for a very close second round," TFI television commentator Gerard Carreyrou said.

As Mr. Jospin prepared to embark on a fresh series of rallies, his supporters said his victory, something he had previously ruled out in private, was now a distinct possibility.

Radio Luxembourg said Mr. Chirac and Mr. Jospin may hold a crucial television debate on May 2.

Mr. Chirac, putting behind him a bruising campaign duel, telephoned Mr. Balladur to thank him for his support and call for reconciliation to take the Elysee Palace out of socialist hands after Mr. Mitterrand's 14-year rule.

"Jacques Chirac told Edouard Balladur that he wanted, like him, the widest possible unity of forces who refuse a third socialist seven-year term," his spokesman Francois Barouin said.

He said Mr. Chirac revived his campaign machine to convince all parliamentarians in the ruling centre-right coalition and supporters of defeated right-wing candidates to work for him.

Lionel Jospin  
Jacques Chirac

## U.S. seeking to extend ban on Iran oil — MEES

**NICOSIA (AFP)** — The U.S. administration is close to drawing up a draft executive order banning U.S. firms from buying, refining or trading in Iranian oil anywhere in the world, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

The draft order "which would significantly extend the scope of the U.S. economic sanctions against Iran is in the final stages of review at the White House," the Cyprus-based weekly said.

It would apply to all U.S. companies and their overseas affiliates and allow a 90-day transition period for firms to find alternative suppliers, it said, quoting unnamed sources.

"The whole operation would still be likely to generate a major disruption in the oil market, particularly if Washington also succeeded in pressuring Japan to stop its companies from buying Iranian oil."

But in Tehran the Liberation Movement of Iran, one of the rare Iranian opposition groups which is tolerated by the state, warned the United States against stepping up its economic sanctions on the country.

"Boosting the sanctions as proposed by the American parliamentarians greatly oversteps the fight against the Iranian government to become a hostility towards the Iranian people," said Ibrahim Yazdi, the new secretary general of the LMI.

He told AFP in Tehran

that "the Iranian people are very worried by the consequences of such plans on the population and on the country's integrity."

And he warned that the "population will resist all external efforts and threats."

U.S. President Bill Clinton last month issued an executive order banning U.S. firms from developing Iran's oil and gas fields leading to the cancellation of a one-billion-dollar deal between the National Iranian Oil Company and the U.S. firm Conoco.

Existing sanctions already prohibit imports of Iranian oil into the United States.

If the U.S. embargo goes ahead "some 400,000 to 600,000 barrels per day (bpd) of Iranian crude would be looking for a home — and if Japan were to join in, the figure could rise to around a million bpd."

Prices, already depressed, could rally initially but there would be a tendency to a drop in the market "if the operation resulted in a net increase in the volume of supply."

It would be a "marketeer's nightmare, driven more by U.S. domestic politics than the logic of the market," MEES added.

Washington has pressured countries such as Japan and Russia to halt cooperation with the Islamic republic, which it accuses of supporting "terrorism" and seeking a nuclear capability. Tehran has denied both charges.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Monday meets with U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce David Barram (photo by Yousef Allan)

## Crown Prince, Barram discuss U.S.-Jordan economic relations

**AMMAN (I.T.)** — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met Monday with David Barram, deputy U.S. secretary of commerce, and reviewed with him scopes for economic and trade cooperation between Jordan and the United States.

The two sides also discussed ideas and projects for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley and the main topics being discussed at an Amman meeting that is preparing the ground for the Middle East and North Africa summit due to be held in Amman in October.

Mr. Barram voiced his country's appreciation of Jordan's approach towards regional cooperation in economic fields and towards achieving a comprehensive development in the Middle East.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Ahul Ragheb and Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Israheid.

**U.S. commitment**

Mr. Barram said Monday

the Clinton administration is fully committed to supporting the economic development of Jordan and the Middle East and the convening of a three-day symposium on developing the Jordan Rift Valley in Amman is the most vivid evidence of that commitment.

Ronald Brown paid three visits to the Middle East leading high-level American delegations exploring business and investment opportunities.

"American firms are eager to do business here," said Mr. Barram.

The deputy secretary said the U.S. was determined to make a success of the Middle East and North Africa summit scheduled to be held in Amman in October. The summit, he said, could be the "perfect stage to unveil a new Middle East."

Later, in comments to the local media, he said it might take some time before the people could feel the actual economic benefits of peace but it was the responsibility of the governments concerned to expose the opportunities available in the region to the private sector and offer every encouragement.

"The leadership has to show people where to go," he said. "It is a real challenge... you have to show the private sector what can be..."

## Coalition plans anti-normalisation meeting despite governor's refusal

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — Eleven opposition parties will "continue steps to hold the national Jordanian conference to protect the homeland and fight normalization" despite a government refusal to allow the holding of the gathering, a preparatory committee for the conference said Monday.

The committee said in a statement that it will also pursue the case with the judiciary on the basis of the alleged government "abuse of the public meetings law as well as the violation of this law."

The committee postponed till a date it did not specify the convening of the conference which was originally set for April 27, saying the gathering will take place once all the necessary measures to ensure its success are taken.

The committee rejected the Anman governor's refusal to grant it permission to hold the conference, adding that his decision violates the public meeting law.

In compliance with the law, the statement said, the preparatory committee for the conference "notified" the Anman governor of the date and place of the proposed conference on April 15. But the said the governor refused to grant permission for the holding of the conference, saying in a letter he sent to the committee that "after studying the request for holding the meeting we found out that the request does not fulfill all legal requirements and hence we cannot approve it."

The committee said in the

In doing so, said the statement, the government has refused to explain the legal requirements that the request does not meet, informing it that the idea for the conference was completely rejected.

The parties said they were exercising a constitutional right by preparing for the conference which aims at protecting the country and fighting the normalization of ties with the Jewish state.

The statement severely criticised what it called the hasty normalisation of ties with Israel at a time when Israel is still occupying Arab lands and when "violation of public freedoms and democracy to curb (opposition to the peace treaty with Israel) are increasing."

Opposition parties, which include Islamists, pan-Arabists and leftists, vowed to fight normalization with Israel even before the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel was concluded.

While the Islamists reject peace with Israel on ideological grounds, most leftists and pan-Arabist parties say normalization should not start before Israel has withdrawn from all occupied Arab territories.

## Sudan-Uganda row worsens

**KHARTOUM (R)** — Sudan said it was not surprised by Uganda's decision to break diplomatic relations and again accused Kampala of supporting separatist Sudanese rebels.

In a statement issued on Sunday night, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry also rejected Uganda accusations that its military attack in Kampala was storing weapons at his residence.

The statement said Khartoum's government was ready to accept the searching of the attacker's residence in the presence of the dean of the diplomatic representatives in Kampala to prove that there were no arms inside.

More than 50 Ugandan soldiers surrounded the attacker's residence on Friday to force him to hand over the alleged weapons.

The government-owned Al Ingaz Al Watani newspaper reported on Monday that the military attack, Hayder Al Hadi Omer, and his deputy have arrived in Khartoum on Sunday. It added that six other diplomats are expected to arrive on Monday.

## Britain says talks with Sinn Fein to go ahead

**LONDON (AP)** — Negotiations about disarming the Irish Republican Army will begin soon, Britain announced Monday, breaking months of deadlock in the search for a Northern Ireland settlement.

The announcement indicated a meeting was imminent between the Irish Republican Army (IRA)-aligned Sinn Fein party and Michael Ancram, the second-ranking figure in Britain's Northern Ireland Office.

It would be the first ministerial-level meeting between Britain and Sinn Fein, which helped engineer the IRA's Sept. 1 ceasefire. Until now talks had involved British civil servants only.

When Mr. Ancram meets Sinn Fein, the Northern Ireland office said, "there will first need to be a substantive discussion... on decommissioning of arms, including an exploration of the specific ways this can best be achieved."

The breakthrough followed several weeks of contacts by letter and phone between Britain's senior civil servant in Northern Ireland's voters.

Quentin Thomas, and Sinn Fein deputy leader Martin McGuinness, a reported former IRA commander.

Sinn Fein headquarters in Dublin said it has offered Britain no firm promise to "decommission" its side's weaponry.

"Decommissioning" means the surrender or destruction of guns, bullets, explosive and weapons-making equipment, most of which the IRA has hidden south of the border from British-ruled Northern Ireland.

Sinn Fein said the party's formal response would come from Mr. McGuinness later Monday.

Sinn Fein, which grew as a political force in Roman Catholic parts of Northern Ireland following the IRA prison hunger strikes of 1981, has insisted it has no authority to negotiate about its side's arsenal.

The party had pressed for raising the negotiations to ministerial level as a sign that Britain recognises it as a legitimate political party, backed by about 11 per cent of Northern Ireland's voters.

## Islamic Jihad sets terms to end attacks

**GAZA CITY (Agencies)** — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the militant Islamic Jihad reported progress Monday in talks aimed at halting attacks on Israelis which are threatening the expansion of autonomy.

However, the largest Islamic opposition group, Hamas, vowed to "continue the resistance and holy war against the Zionist occupation."

The PLO led Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Monday freed 20 militants rounded up after a double suicide bombing and authorised the publication of an opposition newspaper, Palestinian sources said.

Police said that members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad arrested after the bombing in the Gaza Strip which killed eight people on April 9 had been freed for lack of evidence.

The meeting was positive, productive and serious, and we are progressing, said Mr. Abdul Rahim, a senior aide to Mr. Arafat, headed a PLO team that met for 90 minutes Monday with top figures in the Islamic Jihad.

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